



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
Department of Children, Youth and Families
Director's Office
101 Friendship St.
Providence, RI 02903

February 5, 2026

The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee, Chairwoman
House Committee on Judiciary
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: 2025 H-7438 – Relating to State Affairs and Government – Department of Children, Youth and Families

Dear Chairwoman McEntee:

Please accept this letter from the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF or “the department”) regarding H 7438.

This bill would require additional state funds to support the expansion of certain programs currently offered by DCYF and sustained through federal funding. For instance, families receive a subsidy when they adopt a child, and that subsidy comes from federal funds. Expanding to allow foster children to participate is not allowed under federal guidelines.

There are several other examples of programs that are partially or fully funded through federal funds for which foster children may not be eligible. If this bill passes, the department would require a significant increase in its budget to pay to expand certain programming beyond what federal reimbursements will allow.

DCYF appreciates the opportunity to express its concerns regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ashley Deckert".

Ashley Deckert, MSW, MA
Director

cc: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable Julie A. Casimiro
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy