



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND JUDICIARY

SUPREME COURT
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Licht Judicial Complex
250 Benefit Street
Providence, RI 02903

March 10, 2026

Via Electronic Mail (HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov)

Chairwoman Carol Hagan McEntee
House Committee on Judiciary
Rhode Island State House
House Lounge
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: House Bill #8050: An Act Relating to Courts and Civil Procedure – Procedure Generally – Causes of Action

Dear Chairwoman Carol Hagan McEntee:

I write on behalf of the Rhode Island Judiciary to express our support for House Bill #8050, scheduled to be heard this evening before the House Committee on Judiciary. If enacted, this bill would provide mediators and other staff within the Family Court's mediation program with immunity from financial liability for any claim, demand, or suit resulting from acts or omissions performed within the scope of their employment.

The Rhode Island Family Court mediation program is a service the court provides parties to assist in resolving cases involving divorce, child custody, child placement, parenting time, and other related matters pending before the court. This legislation, if passed, would extend immunity to the mediators and other staff in the Family Court's mediation program for acts or omissions occurring in the course of their duties and within the scope of their employment. The immunity would apply only to acts or omissions which may be negligence, but are not wanton, malicious or grossly negligent. The immunity mirrors that which is afforded to certain employees and volunteers of the Family Court's Court Appointed Special Advocate program, as set forth in R.I. Gen Laws § 9-1-27.2.

Thank you for the opportunity to express the Judiciary's support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Chrisanne Wyrzykowski

Chrisanne Wyrzykowski
General Counsel