

Ariana Costa

From: Jonathan Newkirk <noreply@not-the-end.com>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2026 5:34 PM
To: Rep. Dawson, Matthew S.; Rep. Justine Caldwell; Sen. Bridget Valverde; House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Constituent Letter Re: RI 2026 Bill H7546 — Peace Officer Definition Expansion (DCYF)

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Dear Rep. Justine Caldwell and Sen. Bridget Valverde,

As a constituent and resident of East Greenwich, I am writing to express my strong support for RI 2026 H7546, the bill that expands the definition of peace officers to include DCYF juvenile workers. I firmly believe that this legislation is a necessary step towards ensuring the safety and well-being of Rhode Island's most vulnerable populations, particularly children and families in crisis.

I support H7546 for several reasons. Firstly, DCYF juvenile workers often find themselves in high-stress, potentially volatile situations, and granting them peace officer status would provide them with the necessary authority and protection to effectively carry out their duties. Secondly, this expansion would allow DCYF workers to better collaborate with law enforcement agencies, leading to more streamlined and efficient responses to complex family crises. Thirdly, this legislation would help to reduce the risk of burnout and trauma among DCYF workers, who often bear the emotional brunt of working with troubled families. I have witnessed firsthand the incredible dedication and compassion of these workers in our community, and I believe that they deserve our support and recognition.

As someone who has volunteered with local family advocacy groups, I have seen the positive impact that dedicated, trained professionals can have on the lives of struggling families. By passing H7546, we can take a significant step towards creating a safer, more supportive environment for Rhode Island's children and families. I urge you to vote yes on this important legislation.

Thank you for your tireless work on behalf of our community. I appreciate your commitment to public service and look forward to seeing this bill move forward.

With appreciation for your public service, Jonathan Newkirk East Greenwich