



*Distinctive Communities
Powerful Alliance*

February 11, 2026

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey, Chair
House Municipal Government and Housing
Rhode Island House of Representatives
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: BILL NUMBER H-7371 – RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES

Dear Chair Casey and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 7371.

The League supports House Bill 7371, which clarifies that Department of Human Services (DHS) licensed family childcare home providers may serve up to twelve (12) children at a time in accordance with established state licensing standards.

Family childcare providers are an important part of the local fabric of Rhode Island's cities and towns, offering neighborhood-based care that supports working families and local economies. Clear and consistent statewide standards benefit municipalities by providing predictability for local officials, providers, and families alike.

House Bill 7371 reinforces alignment between state licensing requirements and local implementation, while preserving the comprehensive regulatory framework under chapter 12.5 of title 42. DHS will continue to oversee and enforce health, safety, and quality standards, ensuring that children are protected and programs operate responsibly within our communities.

By supporting clarity and consistency within the existing system, this legislation helps municipalities, providers, and families operate within a uniform framework that strengthens access to licensed childcare across the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to share the perspective of Rhode Island's municipalities and for your thoughtful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Rossi", is positioned above the typed name.

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Municipal Government and Housing