



State of Rhode Island  
***Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families***

March 23, 2023

The Honorable Karen Alzate, Chairwoman  
House Committee on Special Legislation  
State House, House Lounge  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

**RE: 2023 H5453 Relating to General Assembly – Permanent Joint Commission on Naming All New Buildings, Bridges, Edifices and Other State Constructions**

Dear Chairwoman Alzate:

I am writing on behalf of the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) to share our support of the above referenced legislation.

Roosevelt “Rosie” Benton had a long history with the DCYF and our Division of Juvenile Corrections, with his last position being that of Deputy Superintendent of the Rhode Island Training School. Rosie was a gregarious individual whose passion for helping young people through some of the most challenging times of their lives was second to none. For him, this was not simply his job but his calling and fully devoted his life both professionally and within the community to ensuring youth had the opportunities and tools to succeed.

It is fitting that the facility named after him has fulfilled its purpose and is no longer needed for youth assessment. DCYF appreciates that the Department of Behavioral Health, Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH) is continuing to honor Rosie’s name while recognizing the facility’s new use and renaming it as the Roosevelt Benton Center. DCYF also supports the removal of this facility from being identified as part of the Thomas C. Slater Training School as it no longer serves a youth population.

I thank Representative Slater for sponsoring this legislation and urge the Committee to recommend passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

Kevin Aucoin  
Acting Director

cc: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Special Legislation  
The Honorable Scott Slater  
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House