

Child & Family

Caring for our Rhode Island Community since 1866

Marty Sinnott
President & CEO

March 6, 2025

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RE: In support of H5718- An Act Relating to State Government

Dear Chairman Shanley, First Vice Chair Messier, Second Vice Chair Corvese and Members of the House State Government and Elections Committee,

My name is Marty Sinnott. I serve as CEO of Child & Family Services of Rhode Island, a comprehensive human services agency which has supported the State's highest risk youth and families since 1866. Within our family preservation, children's behavioral health and permanency programs where we provide foster care, residential treatment for youth aging out of foster care and independent living programs, we play an important role in the Rhode Island's system of care for the child welfare system and children's behavioral health.

Child & Family supports H5718 which better defines the scope and mandate of the Department of Children Youth and Families. Rhode Island's children's behavioral health system needs to be strengthened. H5718 is an important step in that direction. With the right leadership from DCYF and community providers, coupled with investments in funding and oversight of performance and outcomes from the General Assembly, we have an opportunity to be proactive rather than reactive. DCYF and community providers have done a good job keeping families intact and reducing the number of youths in out-of-home placements. The State's system of care for children and families should take advantage of the accomplishments of DCYF while also accounting for the still incomplete implementation of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers. H5718 is a framework for making this happen.

Thanks to all the Members of the Committee for your leadership.

Respectfully submitted,



Marty Sinnott

