



Together for Children. Families. Communities.

January 27, 2026

Re: In support of H7237- An Act Relating to General Assembly - Permanent Joint Committee on the Department of Children, Youth and Families Oversight

Dear Chairman Shanley, Vice Chairs Messier and Corvese,

On behalf of the Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families (RICCF), I wish to express our support for H7237 which would establish a Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on the RI Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF). RICCF is comprised of forty-three organizations including the majority of DCYF providers of home, community-based and residential services.

DCYF has a broad and vital mission to prevent and address issues of child welfare, issues of behavioral health, and youth development/juvenile justice. The issues facing these most vulnerable youth are complex and our state's response is interwoven with the work of other state departments. We support the greater accountability that would be achieved by the existence of a standing oversight committee, and a joint committee would afford efficiencies and broader General Assembly understanding.

We thank the sponsor Representative Julie Casimiro for her leadership, along with her fellow sponsors, for introducing this legislation, and urge the committee to pass H7237.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tanja Kubas Meyer".

Tanja Kubas Meyer
Executive Director