

April 7, 2026

The Honorable Chair Louis DiPalma
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
RI State House

Re: Support for H7127 (Governor's FY27 Budget, Article 5, Section 5) & S2583

Dear Chair DiPalma:

We write in strong **support** of the Governor's Budget including Child Tax Credits, which would provide families with a refundable tax break to support meeting their children's basic needs. Ideally, we encourage you to pass Senator Vargas' legislation that would increase that tax credit to \$650.

RIPIN is statewide nonprofit that helps families and individuals across the lifespan with navigating special education, health care, and healthy aging. RIPIN is peer-led, meaning that most of our staff and board are parents or caregivers to a loved one with a disability. We care deeply about the well-being of children and the economic stability of families across our state. I urge you to support this proposal for reducing child poverty and strengthening family financial security.

This credit will reach RI's most vulnerable children, including those in families with low or no income by making it refundable, meaning it is accessible to those who are out of or unable to work. It is responsibly financed by converting existing personal exemptions for dependents into the new refundable credit, a mechanism already used in Maine and Massachusetts.

The cost of living continues to rise, and families with children are feeling the pressure most acutely. A refundable Child Tax Credit is one of the most direct, efficient, and evidence-based tools available to help families stay afloat and give children a strong start.

The Governor's proposal is a practical, targeted investment that will improve child well-being, reduce poverty, and strengthen Rhode Island's future.

I respectfully urge the committee to support the Child Tax Credit included in the FY27 budget and increase it by passing S2583.

/s/

Sincerely,

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