



Together for Children. Families. Communities.

April 9, 2026

The Honorable Louis P. DiPalma, Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance
Room 211, RI State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: In support of H2127- Article 11, Section 4- Ladders to Licensure Program

Dear Chairman DiPalma and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families, I am writing in support of the Ladders to Licensure program and its Social Work and Clinical Mental Health programs- currently in partnership between Rhode Island College and William James College and members of the Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families, including: Communities for People, Child & Family, Community Care Alliance, Tides Family Services,

The need for a clinically trained behavioral health workforce continues to grow, even as the pathways for financing higher education narrows. This state level program makes it possible for organizations...”to fund multi-employer, public-private partnerships that provide opportunities for healthcare paraprofessionals to pursue higher education degrees and health professional licensure”¹

It is our hope that the narrowing of the program to two partnerships does not negatively impact behavioral health. We respectfully urge the Committee to support the Ladders to Licensure Program and to preserve this critical resource for our communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tanja Kubas Mayer".

Tanja Kubas Mayer
Executive Director
Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families

¹ Year One Ladders to Licensure Report, July 2025: <https://eohhs.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur226/files/2025-08/Year%201%20L2L%20Highlights.pdf>