

Senate Finance Committee
Room 212, 82 Smith Street
Providence, RI, 02903

28 April 2026

Re: Testimony in Support of S2237, an Appropriation of \$3 Million to the RI Community Food Bank

Dear Chairperson DiPalma and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

On behalf of Jewish Collaborative Services, a proud member agency of the Food Bank, I am writing to express our strong support for S2237, to allocate \$3 million to the RI Community Food Bank.

Jewish Collaborative Services provides critical support to individuals and families facing hardship, including access to nutritious food through our pantry and meal service programs. Rising food prices and federal policy changes restricting benefits access have made it increasingly difficult for many Rhode Islander households to make ends meet.

The Rhode Island Community Food Bank is the backbone of the state's hunger relief network. Its ability to procure, store, and distribute food efficiently allows agencies like ours to serve our clients with dignity and care. However, the Food Bank is also facing unprecedented pressure. Increased demand, combined with higher food and transportation costs, has stretched resources thin.

The additional \$3 million proposed in S2237 would provide urgently needed support to stabilize and expand the Food Bank's operations without reducing services or turning people away. Voting yes means approving a lifeline for thousands of Rhode Islanders who rely on this network every day.

Jewish tradition teaches that ensuring access to food is a fundamental responsibility of a just society. Supporting S2237 aligns with these values and reflects a shared commitment to the well-being of our community.

We respectfully urge you to pass S2237 and provide this critical funding to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing efforts to address food insecurity in our state.

Warmly,



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