

April 30, 2026

The Honorable Louis P. DiPalma, Chair
Senate Committee on Finance
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for S2238 – Personal Income Tax Reform / Revenue for Children and Families

Dear Chairman DiPalma and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of the forty-four member organizations of the Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families (RICCF), we write to urge the General Assembly to prioritize sustainable and equitable revenue strategies to ensure Rhode Island can meet the needs of its children, youth, and families.

We strongly support S2238 and commend the sponsors for advancing a proposal that strengthens the state's ability to invest in critical public systems. This proposal represents a thoughtful and fiscally responsible approach to strengthening the state's long-term revenue capacity while maintaining fairness in the tax code.

We also appreciate Governor McKee's proposal to increase taxes on income over \$1 million. However, we believe Rhode Island must go further to ensure that those with the greatest ability to pay contribute their fair share. S2238 offers a more effective and equitable structure by applying a modest additional rate at a lower threshold, ensuring greater stability and impact while still affecting only the highest-income households.

RICCF member organizations serve children and families in every community across the state, including those facing the most significant barriers to opportunity and stability. We see every day how underinvestment in core systems—health care, behavioral health, child welfare, housing, and economic supports—limits outcomes for children and increases long-term costs for the state.

Our support for S2238 is grounded in the following fiscal and policy realities:

Revenue stability is essential to system stability.

Rhode Island continues to face structural budget pressures that threaten core services for children and families. Without sustainable revenue solutions, critical programs risk stagnation or cuts at precisely the moment the needs are increasing.

Federal uncertainty is increasing state responsibility.

Changes in federal policy and funding streams, including pressures on Medicaid and nutrition assistance programs, place additional strain on state resources. Rhode Island must plan proactively to maintain coverage and services for children and families who rely on them.

Children’s systems require sustained investment, not short-term fixes.

Whether in behavioral health, child welfare, early education, or family supports, effective systems depend on consistent funding, adequate staffing, and long-term infrastructure—not reactive budgeting cycles.


Fairness in revenue policy strengthens shared outcomes.

A fair tax system ensures that those with the greatest resources contribute proportionately to the systems that support a healthy, educated, and stable workforce. When Rhode Island invests in children and families, it invests in its economic future.

Now more than ever, Rhode Island must make deliberate choices to protect and strengthen the systems that children and families depend on. A fair and sustainable revenue strategy is essential to meeting that responsibility.

We respectfully urge the Committee to support S2238 and advance a revenue framework that ensures Rhode Island can fully meet the needs of its children, youth, and families today and into the future.

Sincerely,



Tanja Kubas Meyer
Executive Director