



May 4, 2026  
The Honorable Senator Louis DiPalma, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence RI 02903

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2246 –  
AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION – THE RHODE ISLAND FAMILY CAREGIVER TAX CREDIT ACT**

Chair DiPalma and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of United Way Rhode Island, we strongly support S 2246, which establishes a tax credit against income based upon eligible expenditures incurred by a family caregiver for the care and support of an eligible family member, with a maximum credit of \$1,000. United Way's policy and advocacy efforts follow our strategic framework: **Strong Families, Strong Nonprofits, Strong United Way**. We prioritize policies that strengthen household stability, expand access to opportunity, and ensure public investments deliver measurable value.

United Way Rhode Island is proud to be the home of the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), the free, "No Wrong Door" service designed to help Rhode Islanders aged 55+, adults with disabilities, and caregivers navigate long-term services and support. The case managers at ADRC are tasked with navigating a challenging and ever-changing system of state and community programs. One area where those programs fall short is cash assistance for caregivers to cover unexpected expenses. Caregiving is a critical service often provided by family members who cannot afford professional care services. These caregivers are the least able to absorb additional costs of specialty nutrition, home modifications for improving accessibility, and, increasingly, reducing work hours or taking unpaid leave.

The tax credit proposed in this legislation is effectively targeted by the eligibility guidelines, and mirrors similar credits in fifteen states. Comparable tax credits are used by more eligible people when the credit is fully refundable, which this bill does not include. As the IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) partner, United Way Rhode Island sees the impact of fully refundable tax credits every tax season. The federal and Rhode Island Earned Income Tax Credits support working households with full refundability, and the promise of higher tax refunds keeps community members coming back for tax preparation services. With more family caregivers providing care to both their children and parents in Rhode Island, the message of full refundability supports higher utilization of the family caregiver tax credit by the families who need it.

United Way Rhode Island respectfully urges your support for S 2246 and thanks you for sharing our commitment to the economic policy that empowers **Strong Families**.