



May 12, 2026

SEIU 1199NE Position in Support of S-2559 – Appropriation to Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc. (Senate Finance Committee)

Dear Chairman DiPalma and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of SEIU 1199NE, representing thousands of healthcare and social service workers across Rhode Island, I write in support of S-2559, which would appropriate \$3 million to Rhode Island Legal Services.

Rhode Island Legal Services attorneys are members of SEIU 1199NE, and they provide critical legal assistance to low-income Rhode Islanders every day. Their work spans a wide range of issues, including housing, access to public benefits, consumer protection, and family stability.

RILS has done particularly important work on housing and eviction prevention. Their attorneys are on stand-by at housing court, assisting tenants in real time and, in many cases, preventing evictions. They also play a key role in helping individuals secure and maintain access to benefits such as Medicaid and SNAP, which are essential for basic stability.

At the same time, the need for these services is growing. Federal cuts to programs like Medicaid and SNAP, combined with the sharp rise in rents across Rhode Island, have made it harder for working families to stay housed and financially stable. More people are being pushed into crisis, and more are turning to Rhode Island Legal Services for help.

This funding would help ensure that Rhode Island Legal Services has the resources needed to continue providing these essential services and to meet the growing demand for civil legal assistance.

We urge the Committee to support S-2559.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the "e".

Alex Moore

Political Director

SEIU 1199NE

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