



Memo To: Senate Finance Committee

From: Angela Lima, Chief of Governmental Relations, Women's Fund of Rhode Island

Date: May 4, 2026

Concerns: **SUPPORT FOR S-2383,2542,2667,2834,2845**

On behalf of the Women's Fund of Rhode Island, I write to express our strong support for S-2845, S-2834, S-2667, and S-2542. Our organization is dedicated to advancing gender equity through research, advocacy, and strategic investment, and we view these bills as important steps toward building a more just, inclusive, and economically secure Rhode Island.

S-2845 represents a critical opportunity to strengthen transparency and accountability in systems that directly affect women and families. Too often, gaps in oversight disproportionately impact those already facing structural inequities—particularly women of color, low-income women, and single mothers. By improving standards and ensuring clearer reporting and enforcement mechanisms, this bill helps create a more equitable and trustworthy framework.

S-2834 advances access and opportunity in ways that are essential to economic mobility. Women, especially caregivers, continue to face barriers to stable employment, affordable services, and necessary supports. This legislation moves us closer to a system where women can fully participate in the workforce and community without being constrained by preventable obstacles.

S-2667 takes a forward-looking approach to long-term stability and resilience. Economic insecurity remains a persistent issue for many women in Rhode Island, and policies that invest in sustainable solutions—whether through workforce development, housing stability, or community resources—are vital. This bill reflects an understanding that resilience must be built intentionally and inclusively.

S-2542 reinforces protections that are foundational to gender equity. Ensuring safety, fairness, and dignity in public systems is essential for women to thrive. This legislation strengthens those protections and underscores a commitment to responsible governance that centers the well-being of all Rhode Islanders.

Together, these bills form a thoughtful and comprehensive package that addresses both immediate needs and systemic challenges. They align closely with the Women's Fund of Rhode Island's mission to create lasting change by addressing the root causes of inequality and expanding opportunity for all women.

We respectfully urge the Committee to support and advance S-2845, S-2834, S-2667, and S-2542. Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to policies that promote equity and opportunity across our state.

---

The mission of the Women's Fund of Rhode Island is to invest in women and girls through advocacy, research, and strategic partnership designed to achieve gender equity through systemic change. Our [Women's Well-Being Index](#) compares how well women fare against men on topics related to health, safety, economic security, education and civic participation in every RI city/town. Our [policy briefs](#) are written in response to the data found on the Index. You can find more about our work at [www.wfri.org](http://www.wfri.org).