



March 26, 2026

The Honorable Jacob Bissaillon, Chair
Senate Housing and Municipal Government
Rhode Island Senate
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: SENATE BILL 2273 – AN ACT RELATING TO TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES

Dear Chair Bissaillon and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 2273. The League supports this legislation, which clarifies that Department of Human Services (DHS) licensed family childcare home providers may serve up to twelve (12) children at a time in accordance with established state licensing standards. Family childcare providers are a critical component of Rhode Island's communities, offering accessible, neighborhood-based care that supports working families, enables parents to remain in the workforce, and contributes to the economic vitality of our cities and towns. Clear and consistent statewide standards provide predictability for municipal officials who interact with providers, for families seeking care, and for the providers themselves, allowing all parties to operate within a well-understood and uniform framework.

Senate Bill 2273 helps ensure alignment between state licensing requirements and local implementation while maintaining the comprehensive regulatory structure under chapter 12.5 of title 42. DHS continues to play a central role in overseeing and enforcing health, safety, and quality standards, which ensures that children are protected, programs operate responsibly, and municipalities can rely on a predictable system when working with licensed providers.

By clarifying the number of children that may be served in family childcare homes, this legislation strengthens both the accessibility and quality of childcare in our communities and helps providers manage their operations effectively without inadvertently running afoul of licensing requirements. Supporting this measure promotes consistency, safeguards the welfare of children, and reinforces the ability of municipalities to support strong, sustainable childcare options that benefit families, providers, and the broader community alike.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share the perspective of Rhode Island's municipalities and for your thoughtful consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of Senate Housing and Municipal Government