
Written Testimony Submission: S 2940

From Neyda DeJesus <ndejesus@tidesfs.org>

Date Mon 3/16/2026 2:04 PM

To Senate Judiciary Committee <SenateJudiciary@rilegislature.onmicrosoft.com>

You don't often get email from ndejesus@tidesfs.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

To the Chair and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

My name is Neyda DeJesus, and I am a Community Engagement Specialist and Credible Messenger with Tides Family Services and a member of the Providence Juvenile Hearing Board. I am writing in strong support of Bill S 2940, legislation that would strengthen Juvenile Hearing Boards across Rhode Island. Through my work and lived experience growing up in the same communities I now serve, I see firsthand how important it is for young people to have access to support, mentorship, and second chances before becoming deeply involved in the justice system. Bill S 2940 takes two important steps forward by re-establishing a statewide JHB Coordinator through the Family Court to provide technical assistance, connect boards to services, and track outcomes across Rhode Island, and by automating referrals to JHBs for youth charged with a first-time misdemeanor so eligible youth in communities with active boards are given the opportunity for diversion and community accountability. In 2024, 254 young people participated in JHBs across Rhode Island, and the three-year re-arrest rate is just 10 to 12 percent—evidence that community-based diversion works. These results show what is possible when we invest in our youth and provide them with guidance rather than pushing them further into the system. I respectfully urge this committee to pass Bill S 2940. Our youth are worth it, and Rhode Island is worth it.

Respectfully submitted,
Neyda DeJesus

--

Neyda DeJesus, B.A., CCHW
Community Engagement Specialist

Clifton Strengths:

STRATEGIC | REALTOR | RESPONSIBILITY | IDEATION | RESTORATIVE

Tides Family Services

401-481-7135

www.tidesfs.org

" Click [HERE](#) for our new brochure "

"I would like to be known as an intelligent woman, a courageous woman, a loving woman, a woman who teaches by being." -Maya Angelou-

Tides Family Services
215 Washington Street

West Warwick, RI 02893

Phone: 401-822-1360

Fax: 401-823-4694

www.tidesfs.org

Click [HERE](#) for our new brochure

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This message and any attached documents may contain confidential information from Tides Family Services. The information is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or an employee or agent responsible for the delivery of this message to the intended recipient, the reader is hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this message or of any attached documents, or the taking of any action or omission to take any action in reliance on the contents of this message or of any attached documents, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately by e-mail and delete the original message immediately.