



50 Valley Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02909
(401) 444-0600 | www.unitedwayri.org



March 6, 2024

The Honorable Joseph M. McNamara Chair,
House Education Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Testimony in Support of House Bill No. 7612-RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

United Way of Rhode Island is writing to express its support for House Bill No. 7612 Relating to State Affairs and Government and Office of Health and Human Services. A priority of United Way of Rhode Island is to prioritize the health and safety of children to help them succeed in school through the support of high-quality education programs in early childhood, elementary, middle, secondary school and out-of-school time programs. Support for H 7612 and the Achieving a Better Life Experience is rooted in a comprehensive approach to bolster educational outcomes through access to critical services. We support H 7612 and the appropriate adjustments to eliminate barriers to education intervention services to best support most in need youth. An increase in funding will enable more education and learning support, improve social services available and increase the quality and capacity of educational learning programs available to youth in need. We strongly support H 7612 and the efforts to improve access to the social services included in the Achieving a Better Life Experience program made available to students to address and support their varying needs.

All of our state's children deserve opportunities to learn in high-quality schools staffed by exemplary teachers and social workers trained to meet individualized learning and mental wellness needs. United Way of Rhode Island respectfully requests your support for House Bill No. 7612 Relating to State Affairs and Government and Office of Health and Human Services and continue to work to support our youth.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Courtney Colato".

Uniting our community and resources to build racial equity and opportunities for all Rhode Islanders.





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Cortney Nicolato
President and CEO

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