



Rhode Island Department of Human Services

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Office of the Director
Kimberly Merolla-Brito

May 9, 2024

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chairman, House Committee on Finance
State House
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H 7404 – An Act Relating to Human Services – The Rhode Island Works Program

Dear Chair Abney:

I am writing in support of H 7404, which moves the Child Care Assistance Program language from the Rhode Island Works (RI Works) statute to the chapter of Child Care – State Subsidies.

Passage of H 7404 would assist the Rhode Island Department of Human Services in clarifying statutory language, streamlining, expanding, and aligning state and federal laws related to child care. RI Works participants will continue to remain eligible for the Child Care Assistance Program, which is separate from RI Works. Upon passage of this legislation, child care state subsidies and child care licensing would be combined into statute specific to child care – further clarifying the unique organizational structure of the Child Care Assistance Program for the General Assembly, stakeholders, and general public.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this legislation, and would also like to thank Rep. Shallcross Smith for her support on this legislation and advocacy on behalf of Rhode Island families. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberly Merolla-Brito".

Kimberly Merolla-Brito
Director
RI Department of Human Services

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance
The Honorable Julie A. Casimiro
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House of Representatives
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy