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#### *Member Agencies*

Blackstone Valley  
Advocacy Center

Domestic Violence  
Resource Center of  
South County

Elizabeth Buffum  
Chace Center

Women's Resource Center

#### *Task Force*

Sisters Overcoming  
Abusive Relationships

#### *Affiliate Members*

Center for Southeast Asians

Crossroads Rhode Island

Family Service of Rhode Island

McAuley Ministries –  
McAuley Village

Progreso Latino

YWCA Rhode Island

To: Representative Marvin Abney, Chair of the House Finance Committee  
Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee

From: Lucy Rios, Executive Director  
RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Date: May 9, 2024

Re: **Support House Bill 7924**

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On behalf of our network of member agencies and SOAR, our taskforce of survivors, the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence appreciates this opportunity to express our **strong support for H-7924**. This legislation would establish a child tax credit of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per dependent for a single-filer income that does not exceed \$100,000 and for a dual-filer household income that does not exceed \$150,000. Establishing a child tax credit in Rhode Island is essential to creating financial stability for families, reducing child maltreatment, and increasing positive impacts on children's health and well-being. As the temporary federal pandemic child tax credits proved, this policy could greatly reduce childhood poverty and create lasting safety and security for children and families in our state.

Loss of financial stability is a prominent reason that victims are unable to leave an abusive relationship. Poverty and income inequality are root causes of domestic violence. The societal costs associated with intimate partner violence are substantial. According to the CDC, the lifetime per-victim cost is \$103,767 for women and \$23,414 for men. The lifetime economic cost to the U.S. population is \$3.6 trillion. This economic cost estimate includes almost 32 million women and 12 million men who are victims of intimate partner violence during their lives.<sup>1</sup>

Domestic violence not only affects adults, it also has a serious negative impact on children. Children who witness domestic violence are more likely to experience continued challenges throughout their childhood and adulthood. These challenges include emotional, physical, health, and learning issues. Children that are exposed to domestic violence are often victims of physical abuse, and they are at increased risk of entering abusive relationships or committing abuse in relationships themselves.<sup>2</sup>

No victim of domestic violence should have to choose between economic security and their family's safety. Establishing a child tax credit in Rhode Island would help ensure that domestic violence survivors are more financially stable and independent, and that their economic situation would not prevent them from being able to take care of and protect their families. Domestic violence survivors and their families deserve a stable and safe environment, both physically and financially.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. **We urge you to support this legislation to establish a child tax credit for Rhode Island families.**

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<sup>1</sup> Intimate partner violence: Consequences. *U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*. (2018). Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/fastfact.html>

<sup>2</sup> Kids Count RI. (2024). *2024 Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook*. Retrieved from [https://rikidscount.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/children-witnessing-domestic-violence\\_2024fb.pdf](https://rikidscount.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/children-witnessing-domestic-violence_2024fb.pdf)