



May 9, 2024

The Honorable Marvin Abney, Chairman
Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee

RE: HB7924- Support

Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee:

As the CEO of Tides Family Services, I respectfully submit the following written testimony:

I am writing to support **House Bill 7924 Personal Income Tax- Child Tax Credit**. This act would establish a child tax credit of one thousand dollars per dependent.

Tides Family Services provides a multitude of critical community-based child welfare, juvenile justice, and behavioral health programs for children and families throughout the entire State. We bring a broad perspective based on over 40 years of providing services to children and families in Rhode Island.

Children, youth, and their caregivers are experiencing challenges exacerbated by the pandemic leading to increasing educational, and behavioral health crises, as well as inflationary pressures exacerbating homelessness, and food insecurity. Tides has seen firsthand in the families we support the negative impacts of financial instability and challenges that it presents in meeting their basic needs. We support any legislation that would allow for families to access additional tax credits that would result in increased family income.

Research has shown child tax credits contribute to:

- The promotion of work, reduction of poverty, and enhanced child development;
- Reductions in family stressors and state-level maltreatment reports;
- The additional income is used to supplement basic household needs and children's essentials.

Tides Family Services strongly urges you to pass HB 7924 legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth A. Bixby, MSW, LICSW
CEO Tides Family Services