



3/27/2025

The Honorable Alex Marszalkowski
Chair, House Finance Committee, Subcommittee on General Government
State of Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for General Treasurer Budget - H5076 - Governor's FY 2026 Budget

Chair Marszalkowski and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of H5076, the Governor's FY26 proposed budget for the General Treasurer. Passage of a budget that provides the requested funding to the General Treasurer's office is key to ensuring that Treasurer Diossa and his team can continue to carry out their important work.

My name is Margaret Holland McDuff, and I am CEO of FSRI. FSRI is a behavioral health and social service organization delivering over 30 programs to support children, families and individuals across the state. FSRI has been serving Rhode Islanders for decades, including programming to support healthy child development, provide essential behavioral health services, and coordinate crisis intervention programs that help children and families thrive.

As part of our service array, FSRI provides supports to victims of crime through our nationally recognized and award-winning Go Team™. Through this innovative program, FSRI partners local police departments across the state, in addition to the RI State police, to provide immediate, on-scene services to victims of crime, especially when children are present, in order to mitigate the impacts of trauma. As a result of our Go Team™ programming, FSRI collaborates closely with the General Treasurer's office through their Crime Victim Compensation Program. This program is a valuable tool in helping innocent victims cover the financial cost of crime, and we especially appreciate the Treasurer's priority in making this program more accessible for victims of crime.

We also fully support the Treasurer Diossa's priority to implement Baby Bonds. This initiative is an important tool in helping to close the generation wealth gap in our state by creating a trust for every child born into a family receiving Medicaid, while also promote economic development by allowing that child, once they turn 18, to use the trust money for their future in the state through education, home ownership, starting a business, or purchasing a car.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of the General Treasurer's Budget, and the important work that they do daily to promote economic growth and financial security for all Rhode Islanders. Please contact me with any questions.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Margaret Holland McDuff'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'M' and 'D'.

Margaret Holland McDuff, CEO