



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

Daniel J. McKee **Governor**
Kasim J. Yarn **Director**

February 10, 2025

The Honorable Robert E. Craven
Chair, House Committee on Judiciary
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H5222 – An Act Relating To Delinquent And Dependent Children -- Proceedings In Family Court

Dear Chair Craven:

Please accept this letter for the record to reflect the Office of Veterans Services support for H5222, an act relating to delinquent and dependent children – proceedings in Family Court.

Passage of this act would establish concurrent jurisdiction between the Rhode Island Family Court and the Federal Government for the purposes of adjudicating minors who have allegedly committed a crime while residing on a military installation located in Rhode Island.

The federal system is limited in its capacity to handle juvenile offenses and lacks the resources necessary for cases involving sexual misconduct. The system has been designed for adult offenders, often resulting in juveniles being tried as adults. States have the right to adopt concurrent jurisdiction to ensure military families and children have better access to state resources and juvenile courts for the appropriate adjudication of alleged crimes. Rhode Island's Family Court has been designed and tailored to the needs of juveniles, offering a rehabilitative model of justice that has built in privacy and confidentiality protections.

I thank you for your partnership and consideration of this letter, and I urge the Committee to support H5222.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. J. Yarn", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kasim J. Yarn
Director of Veterans Services

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel for the Speaker of the House of Representatives
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy