



Family Court of the State of Rhode Island
One Dorrance Plaza
Providence, RI 02903

MICHAEL B. FORTE
CHIEF JUDGE

April 1, 2025

Robert Craven, Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
State House
Providence,, R.I. 02903

2025- H5260 2025-H5345

Dear Chairman Craven and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I write to support 2025-H5260, a bill that adds those youth who are adjudicated wayward or delinquent before their 18th birthday and continue under the jurisdiction of the Court on their 18th birthday to those eligible to participate in the Voluntary Extension of Care (VEC). This bill also adds eligibility to former foster children who were reunified unsuccessfully prior to their eighteenth birthday. The Court also supports 2025-H5345, which incorporates the changes suggested in H5260 and extends the age of eligibility to twenty six (26)

Unfortunately, we have seen numerous 18 year olds who reach adulthood with little familial support. The Court considers the Voluntary Extension of Care a life preserver for those who live out their childhood or teenage years in the child welfare or Juvenile Justice system. Any additional support the Legislature can give to this program is welcomed by the Court.

Accordingly, the Court supports 2025-H560 and 2025-H 5345 and thanks the committee for the opportunity to comment.

Very Truly Yours,

Michael B. Forte
Chief Judge