

April 3, 2025

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley Chair, House Committee on State Government and Elections State of Rhode Island General Assembly 82 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for H6125 - House Resolution Expressing Support for the LGBTQIA+ Community

Chair Shanley and Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections,

Family Service of Rhode Island (FSRI) is submitting this letter in strong support of H6125, the House Resolution Expressing Support for the LGBTQIA+ Community. We thank Representative Kislak for introducing this important resolution, and for all house members who have signed on and supported.

FSRI is a behavioral health and social service organization with the mission "to advance equity, opportunity, and hope in our communities." Our work and values are rooted in our mission, which includes full support for the LGBTQIA+ community and other marginalized populations.

We believe that every person has the right to live their life openly as who they are, and have access to all of the same rights and protections as any other individual. At FSRI, we are committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and welcoming organizational culture for clients and staff of all identities and backgrounds, and will advocate for our clients, staff, and communities when we identify a need. It is critically important that we continue to show-up for the LGBTQIA+ community, and stand-up against hate, discrimination, and the dismantling of human rights.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter, and I strongly urge the committee to pass this resolution and stand in support of all Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely

Margaret Holland McDuff

CEO