

**UNITED WAY OF RHODE ISLAND**  
**2007 Legislative Agenda Report**



BILL No.	PRIMARY SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION	FINAL ACTION
<b>S0009</b> <b>H5114</b>	Maj. Ld. Paiva-Weed Maj. Ld. Fox	<b>Charitable Contributions / Taxation</b>	
<p><b>SUMMARY:</b> This act would codify the policy of the Division of Taxation in that charitable contributions shall not be considered in determining the domicile of a tax payer for Rhode Island income tax liability.</p> <p><b>POSITION:</b> Priority Support  <b>FOCUS AREA:</b> Non-Profit Sector  <b>PARTNER COALITIONS:</b> Supported by 16 partner coalition comprised of various community and philanthropic organizations.</p>			<p><b>Legislation passed</b> - Bill was signed into law by Governor Carcieri on March 28<sup>th</sup> at a state house event with bill sponsors, Majority Leaders Paiva-Weed and Fox, Representative Church, and many of the coalition members supporting the legislation.</p>
BILL No.	PRIMARY SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION	FINAL ACTION
<b>S-0572</b> <b>H-5723</b>	Senator Pichardo Maj. Ld. Fox	<b>Neighborhood Opportunities Program</b>	
<p><b>SUMMARY:</b> This act would renew annual funding for the Neighborhood Opportunities Program to address the housing and revitalization needs of the state's deteriorating neighborhoods.</p> <p><b>POSITION:</b> Priority Support  <b>FOCUS AREA:</b> Housing  <b>PARTNER COALITIONS:</b> Housing Works RI, RI Coalition for the Homeless</p>			<p>Program Renewal as intended by legislation was included in final budget package. Bonds will be issued by Dept. of Admin.</p>
BILL No.	PRIMARY SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION	FINAL ACTION
<b>S-0579</b> <b>H-5615</b>	Senator Perry Rep. Church	<b>Adult Education</b>	
<p><b>SUMMARY:</b> This act would appropriate 3 million dollars for vocationally oriented adult basic education services. This reflects next stage of growth as per 5-year Adult Education Plan, supported by United Way jobs initiative.</p> <p><b>POSITION:</b> Priority Support  <b>FOCUS AREA:</b> Employability  <b>PARTNER COALITIONS:</b> RI Workforce Alliance</p>			<p>Program appropriation as intended was included in final budget package expanding adult education program \$ 2.1 million (\$100,000 – general revenue and \$2 million from Governor's Workforce Board) from \$1 million as originally presented by Governor.</p>

BILL No.	PRIMARY SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION	FINAL ACTION
<b>S-0451</b> <b>H-5862</b>	S. Paiva-Weed Rep. Slater	<b>Quality Rating System</b>	
<p><b>SUMMARY:</b> This act would establish statewide quality rating assessment of child care services to increase the quality of early care and education and school-age child care through a voluntary rating system. This effort aligns with United Way focus area activity on early childhood development.</p> <p><b>POSITION:</b> Priority Support <b>FOCUS AREA:</b> Children / Families <b>PARTNER COALITIONS:</b> Kids Count, QRS Partnership</p>			<p><b>Legislation passed</b> – QRS was received positively; both bills passed successfully. House bill has been transmitted to Governor and is awaiting enactment.</p>
BILL No.	PRIMARY SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION	FINAL ACTION
<b>S-0169</b> <b>H-5456</b> <b>H-6042</b>	Senator Metts Rep. Diaz Rep. Slater	<b>Earned Income Tax Credit</b>	
<p><b>SUMMARY:</b> UWRI supports continued increase of state refundable EITC. Staff is monitoring as similar bills submitted are intended to support continued increase of tax credit.</p> <p><b>POSITION:</b> Priority Support <b>FOCUS AREA:</b> Family Support <b>PARTNER COALITIONS:</b> One RI</p>			<p><b>No action taken</b> -While there was strong support for the Earned Income Tax Credit Program, due to difficult budget year, funding was preserved at current level.</p>
BILL No.	PRIMARY SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION	FINAL ACTION
<b>H-5300</b>	Watson	<b>Governor's Appropriations Bill for Annual State Budget - Fiscal Year 2008</b>	
<p><b>Housing Bond</b> - \$12.5 million of general obligation bond each year from 2008-2011 from \$50 million affordable housing bond passed in 11/06.</p> <p><b>POSITION:</b> Priority Support <b>FOCUS AREA:</b> Housing</p>			<p>Bond funds incorporated into budget representing first year of funding to be administered by the Dept.of Admin.</p>
<p><b>Supportive Housing</b> - \$300,000 included in Housing Resources Commission budget for last phase of pilot project with United Way.</p> <p><b>POSITION:</b> Priority Support <b>FOCUS AREA:</b> Housing</p>			<p>Housing Resource Commission sustained considerable cuts, however HRC staff has confirmed commitment to continue funding for the Supportive Housing model.</p>

BILL NO.	PRIMARY SPONSOR	DESCRIPTION	FINAL ACTION
<b>H-5300</b>	Watson	<b>Governor's Appropriations Bill for Annual State Budget - Fiscal Year 2008</b>	
<p><b>Child Care Reimbursement</b> – \$15.2 million savings from reducing family eligibility ceilings to below 150% of federal poverty level (currently at 225%).</p> <p><b>POSITION:</b> Oppose <b>FOCUS AREA:</b> Children &amp; Families</p>		<p>Child Care Programs have sustained significant reductions as indicated in following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Care reimbursement eligibility reduced to 180% of federal poverty level from 225% (\$7.6 million reduction --2,400 children impacted)</li> <li>• 1% Increase in family Co-Pay (\$1.1 million reduction)</li> <li>• Eligibility age reduction from 16 to 13 year (\$1.4 million reduction)</li> <li>• No market rate increase for provider reimbursement rates (\$ 5.8 million reduction)</li> </ul> <p><i>Reductions total 19.8 million (included AM/PM rate reduction)</i></p>	
<p><b>Restructuring provider payments for before and after school care</b> - \$3.9 million from general revenue funds</p> <p><b>POSITION:</b> Oppose <b>FOCUS AREA:</b> Children &amp; Families</p>		<p><b>Before/after school rate restructuring</b> – \$ 3.9 million reduction</p>	
<p><b>DCYF</b> – \$12.1 million reduction by discharging youth over 18 from DCYF Services.</p> <p><b>POSITION:</b> Oppose <b>FOCUS AREA:</b> Youth</p>		<p>Dept. of Children Youth and Families sustained budget reductions of \$11.6 million</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Foster Care</b> – Significant potential to eliminate youth covered, and regulatory uncertainty as to how and who the program will serve.</li> <li>• <b>Family Court-</b> Jurisdiction has been modified with impact to transfer 17 year olds to Adult Corrections.</li> </ul>	