



COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
OF RHODE ISLAND

Office of the President

October 29, 2020

The Honorable Marvin Abney  
Chairman, House Committee on Finance  
State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: Rhode Island Capital Plan Fund and Capital Amendments to FY 2021 Appropriations Act (20-H7171)**

Dear Chairman Abney:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments in response to the proposed changes to the FY 2021 Rhode Island Capital Plan Fund and its impact on the Community College of Rhode Island's current and planned capital improvements.

We recognize the challenging position in which the General Assembly finds itself trying to construct a state budget for the current fiscal year in light of the significant decline in revenues and absence of a second federal stimulus bill.

As one of three institutions of higher education in Rhode Island that receives RICAP funding to support ongoing capital improvements across our campuses, we are mindful of the state's precarious financial position caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and our obligation to the General Assembly to be fiscally prudent. We approach our budgeting process, including our RICAP funding requests, with this in mind.

As part of a multi-year facilities planning process, the college identified the highest priorities for physical improvements across all four campuses, including creating 21<sup>st</sup> century student support spaces, transforming classrooms to support collaborative learning and equip the college with critical technology upgrades, expanding learning spaces throughout the four campuses, and investing in much needed infrastructure upgrades.

The Governor's initial FY 2021 budget included \$10.8 million in RICAP funding to allow the campus to continue and/or initiate identified priority projects. The recently proposed changes to the RICAP funding before this committee provide funding to those projects currently underway, and to advance identified projects, while deferring some of the necessary work to future years.



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Thank you for considering the impact this decision will have on our ability to continue to improve our college campus spaces for our students. I remain grateful to you and the General Assembly for your support of our college and our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Meghan Hughes'.

Meghan Hughes  
President



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