

From: George Evans Marley [mailto:GEMarley@bigsri.org]

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2020 3:18 PM – Health Education & Welfare Committee

To: Lisa Cataldi

Subject: Review of Remote Learning by the Rhode Island Department of Education Grades K – 12 and

Good Afternoon,

I am submitting written testimony for the Review of Remote Learning by the Rhode Island Department of Education Grades K – 12 on behalf of myself and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rhode Island.

Good Afternoon, My name is George Evans Marley and I am the Director of Development and Community Relations at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rhode Island. I provide this written testimony **In support of a Solution to Distance Learning that Defends the Potential of youth in Rhode Island.**

The youth we serve have several questions about the current state of the world in regards to the current **Review of Remote Learning by the Rhode Island Department of Education Grades K – 12** and their experience with the COVID19 Pandemic. We look to you as experts in this field and we hope you can provide our ‘Littles’ with thoughtful responses.

“Will our current situation be the “new norm?”- 16yo Providence, RI

“What is the outlook for the pandemic/coronavirus? What is the “new norm” that people talk about? Will I always have to wear a mask? A year from now? 2 years from now?”- 17yo Cranston, RI

“How do we determine what is essential and what isn't? We have hair salons opening up, but people are still getting COVID and dying. They don't seem essential. But, I still can't go to my dentist.” 11yo North Kingstown, RI

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rhode Island believes youth should achieve their fullest potential.

Our **mission** is to create and support one-to-one mentoring relationships that **ignite the power and promise of youth**. We believe in **accountability** by partnering with parents/guardians, volunteers, and others in the community. We are **accountable** for each child in our program achieving higher aspirations, greater confidence, and better relationships, avoidance of risky behaviors, and educational success. Together, We Are Defenders of Potential.

With thoughtful regards, **George Evans Marley**

Director of Development and Community Relations

Pronouns: They/Them/Theirs

LRI Pill 20' Strengths: Developer, Strategic, Positivity, Intellection & Adaptability