



CITY OF PROVIDENCE

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

February 24th 2021

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chair, House Committee on Finance
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Honorable Chair Abney and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing in strong support of H5534, which would approve \$140,000,000 in additional general obligation bonds in support of school facilities construction and improvements within the City of Providence.

This funding, combined with the voter approved \$160,000,000 from 2018 will make this the largest investment ever in our school facilities. Overall, we are committed to spending up to \$400,000,000 over the next ten years to guarantee that our schools can meet the needs of our students.

As you know, in November 2019, the State of Rhode Island, through the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), acquired authority over Providence Public Schools (PPSD) by way of the Crowley Act. RIDE, PPSD and the City have collaborated to review all school capital projects to ensure that they align with the programmatic goals of the State Turnaround Plan for Providence Public Schools.

This act is matched by an identical resolution passed by the Providence City Council on January 28th 2021. Please feel free to contact me or my staff for any details regarding the projects.

I thank the sponsors and committee for considering this act.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jorge O. Elorza