

Chris O'Brien

From: Emma B <emmabouton703@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 3:33 PM
To: Chris O'Brien
Subject: Testimony for House Finance Committee
Attachments: 2020 Rhode Island Justice Budget Principles.pdf

Members of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you for your time and consideration of the budget tonight. It is imperative that this budget does not cut essential social services and that it protects the needs of R.I.'s most vulnerable residents in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. People are struggling to figure out how to put food on the table and remain in their homes, and now is the time to step up and help. In line with the Justice Budget drafted by dozens of community organizations, I am calling on you to invest in community-driven solutions for housing, criminal justice, and economic justice, as outlined in the attached document. There is more than enough funding to meet these urgent needs--it is simply a matter of prioritization. It is time that we reallocate funding from the police force, raise taxes on the wealthiest Rhode Islanders, and end corporate giveaways in order for the budget to better reflect the priorities of helping Rhode Islanders most in need during this global pandemic.

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