



Conexion Latina Newport
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Rhode Island General Assembly

To: House Corporations Committee

From: Yolanda Macias, Associate Manager and Co Fonder, Conexion Latina Newport.

Date: Mar 3, 2025

Re: Bill Number,H 5562 : In Support of House bill 5562, titled AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- SOLICITATION BY CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

Dear Chairperson Solomon and members of the House Corporations Committee:

My name is Yolanda Macias and I am the co-founder and Associate Director of **Conexion Latina Newport** and we are one of 60 Non profit organizations in the state that are strongly supporting, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- SOLICITATION BY CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS.

Conexion Latina Newport is a small, grassroots organization and has been very fortunate to receive funding from several private funders across the state, of varying sizes, and we have been fortunate to receive a few pass through grants from state funders. All of that being said, as the community we serve has grown, our work has consistently grown, along with our geographical reach and our staff, however funding has been harder and harder to get making our budget tighter and tighter each year. This year is the first year we have been over the \$500,000 budget threshold for audit, and I have had to find the funding to pay for that. But now that we have entered that realm, and assuming our organization continues to serve, we will need to find funding of \$10,000-\$15,000 each year moving forward to pay for an audit, while we face harder and harder funding challenges under the current administration. As a small non-profit of our type, when seeking funding, our funders strongly prefer to fund programs and

not general operating expenses, such as accounting and auditing, and I have yet to find a private donor who would be willing to pay for an organizational audit.

HB5562 seeks to amend regulations on charitable organizations requiring financial audits for gross income of \$500,000 and raise that threshold to \$1,000,000. I urge you to support House Bill 5562 and advocate for its passage. This legislation will empower nonprofit organizations to continue their valuable work while maintaining integrity and accountability in fundraising practices.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yolanda Macias.
Associate Manager & Cofounder.