



March 20, 2025

The Honorable Committee chair,
House Corporations Committee
House Lounge, Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H 5245 -- Support

Honorable members,

At Progreso Latino, our mission is to help Rhode Island's Latino and immigrant communities achieve greater self-sufficiency and socio-economic progress by providing transformational programs that support personal growth and social change. Progreso Latino writes in strong support of H 5245.

Creating an income-sensitive tiered subsidy program to ensure that home energy utility costs are affordable promotes energy equity and protects the health and well-being for our marginalized communities. Energy is a basic necessity. Low-income households often struggle to afford essential services like electricity, heating, and cooling. A tiered subsidy program helps ensure that these households have access to energy without being forced to make difficult trade-offs, such as sacrificing food or healthcare to pay for utilities. High utility costs can also lead to overdue bills, which increase the risk of utility shutoffs. A subsidy program helps prevent this cycle of debt and hardship by making energy more affordable and reducing the likelihood of disconnections. When households are able to afford their energy bills, they are more likely to pay on time, which helps utility companies maintain stable revenue. By doing so it allows families with more disposable income, which they can spend on other essentials, such as food, healthcare, or education. This can help improve the overall quality of life for these families and contribute to the local economy. This is a social responsibility to ensure that all individuals, regardless of income, have access to basic services such as energy as it aligns with the values of fairness, equity, and care for the most vulnerable in society

Thank you to Representative Slater and their co-sponsors for their leadership, and thank you to the honorable members of the House Corporations Committee for your consideration of this impactful legislation.

Sincerely,

Jonathan De Jesus

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