

Lisa Cataldi

From: Jordan Goyette <goyettejordan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 11:15 AM
To: House Education Committee
Subject: Testimony in favor of H 6666

Dear Chairman McNamara & members of the House Education committee,

The COVID-19 pandemic's impact on the progress of student's learning in Rhode Island has been undoubtedly profound. While distance learning allowed for school to carry on outside of the classroom, many students fell behind for reasons well outside of their control, whether it was their families ability to pay for reliable internet access, or just that they live in areas historically underserved when it comes to the infrastructure needed to sustain an internet usage, while also dealing with our harsh storms throughout the year which often knock out power for many for days on end. Luckily however, we have more resources to do this than ever before. Recently the General Assembly passed the Governor RI Rebounds proposal, which allocated \$500,000 to building out more broadband connectivity. Furthermore, the passage of President Biden's infrastructure bill has \$100 million now headed to Rhode Island for that purpose as well. The time is now to pass this.

Thank You,

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