

March 17, 2025

State of Rhode Island General Assembly  
House Committee on Education  
State House, 82 Smith Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

**Subject: Support for House Bill [H5597](#): Ensuring Clean Indoor Air in Rhode Island Schools**

Dear House Committee on Education,

I am writing as a public health expert and parent in Rhode Island, to express my strong support for H5597, which will help ensure that all students and educators have access to safe, healthy indoor air in our schools.

Clean indoor air is essential for student health and well-being. Poor air quality can make our children sick, worsen asthma symptoms, increase absenteeism, and decrease test scores. Yet, we do not have adequate indoor air quality in our schools.

As a mom of two children who attend public school here in Rhode Island, I have seen first hand how inadequate air quality in schools can interrupt children's essential learning. I know that infections that spread more easily due to lack of clean indoor air keeps kids out of school. Conversely, clean indoor air helps keep our kids healthier and increases their productivity and learning. In short, it's a win all around.

H5597 will help ensure Rhode Island's schools have clean indoor air. It will set recommended guidelines for indoor air quality and ensure that ventilation systems in school buildings are assessed regularly. Rhode Island already assesses the structural and capital needs of its schools every five years through the School Building Authority's Needs Survey ([R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-105-3](#)), and this bill would add onto that process to include an inspection and evaluation of indoor air quality within schools.

If passed, this bill will have a major impact to raise awareness of indoor air quality and improve the health of school buildings without a major investment of resources.

I urge you to support this bill and protect the health and well-being of Rhode Island's students and educators.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer B. Nuzzo, DrPH, SM  
Mom and Professor of Epidemiology, Brown University School of Public Health