

Subject: Testimony in Support of House Bill No. 5836 – Ethnic Studies Requirement

Good morning!

My name is Nathaly Fernandez. I'm a proud mother, educator, and community ambassador with College Unbound in Providence.

I'm writing with so much love and support for House Bill No. 5836, which would make Ethnic Studies a requirement in all RI high schools. As someone who works closely with students and families, and as a Latina woman raising a son, I know how powerful it is for young people to see themselves, their culture, and their history in the classroom. It builds pride, confidence, and a sense of belonging that every student deserves.

This bill is about more than curriculum, it's about truth, healing, and equity. Our kids deserve to learn the full story, not just parts of it. This will create more connected, empowered, and informed communities.

I hope you'll do what's right and pass House Bill No. 5836. Our babies are watching, and they're ready to lead. Let's give them the tools to do it.

With gratitude and purpose,

Have a Beautiful day,
Nathaly Fernandez
Community Ambassador/Lab Faculty
College Unbound