

Abigail Rogers, Chariho High School Class of 2025
Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England Gold Award Recipient
House Bill 7416

Hello Chairman McNamara and the Education Committee. My name is Abigail Rogers and I am a 2025 grad from Chariho High School. **I recently earned my Gold Award.**

I have been a Girl Scout since I was in elementary school, and I can attest that I have learned the value of being an active member of my community and giving back to my state.

For my gold award, I worked with the Gilbert Stuart Museum and Birthplace to create outdoor signage and give more information about the history, wildlife, architecture, and historical presence of the area. I believe this greatly improved the community's experience and opportunity to learn at the museum.

This bill would be a great opportunity to keep people like me, who have grown up learning those lessons in Rhode Island, and continue to help their communities. Currently, there are wonderful things about the Gold Award, like the personal satisfaction of helping others, as well as the possibility of earning a competitive scholarship from Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England.

Finishing a Gold Award is hard. You are doing the work on top of your high school workload and extracurricular schedule. I know many of my fellow Girl Scouts would have been much more dedicated to completing their projects if there was a guaranteed incentive to doing so. And you can imagine the impact all of those projects and community-building changes would have on Rhode Island.

Thank you so much for your consideration.