



IBIS GROUP[®]

Funder Letter of Support
for **H7730: An Act Relating to Education – Student Cultural Exchange Program**
Sponsors: Representatives Stewart, Speakman, Cotter, Cruz, Alzate, Giraldo, Furtado,
Boylan, Place, and J. Lombardi

March 9, 2026

Dear Chair McNamara and Members of the House Education Committee and Committee Clerk Cataldi:

On behalf of the Ibis Group, we are writing to express our support for H7730, the Rhode Island Act Relating to Education - Student Cultural Exchange Program.

At the Ibis Group, we invest in leaders and organizations that build civic knowledge, skills, and virtues; work that strengthens the bonds among citizens and reinforces the foundations of our civic life. We believe public-private partnerships are among the most effective vehicles for advancing that work responsibly and at scale.

We also hold a clear conviction about the power of exchange. When young people step outside their own communities and encounter peers whose lives differ from their own, they develop understanding, civic humility, a deeper appreciation for the country they share, and a broader sense of mutual responsibility.

The American Exchange Project is carrying out this model with uncommon discipline and integrity. We have deep confidence in its leadership team: the seriousness of its intent, the clarity of its mission, and its demonstrated ability to execute effectively and responsibly. Our investment reflects not only belief in the model, but trust in the team's capacity to steward it well and grow it thoughtfully at scale.

To date, we have committed \$1,000,000 specifically to support American Exchange Project's expansion of state-based partnerships that increase access to this model, in addition to approximately \$500,000 in general operating support. This level of investment reflects our confidence in the state-level public-private partnership framework as a durable and scalable way to expand opportunity for young people. We believe that helping students engage meaningfully with communities beyond their own strengthens not only individual participants, but also the long-term civic health of our communities and country.

H7730 creates a thoughtful and accountable framework within the Rhode Island Department of Education to administer a voluntary, privately funded domestic exchange program for high school seniors.

We view this legislation as a responsible first step toward building a durable public-private partnership in Rhode Island, one that ensures statewide access, transparency, and long-term sustainability while establishing a fund to support the program.



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Rhode Island has an opportunity to position itself as a national leader in civic innovation by supporting a program that fosters empathy, resilience, and active civic participation among young adults at a formative moment in their lives.

We appreciate your consideration of H7730 and your commitment to strengthening opportunities for Rhode Island students.

Sincerely,

Chi Kim, Board Chair
Jason Griffiths, Executive Director