



April 30, 2024

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney  
House Finance Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith St.  
Providence RI, 02903

RE: Bill Number: 7772 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF APPROXIMATELY \$30,000,000 TO RHODE ISLAND'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS

Dear Chairman Abney and Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am writing to express our support for House Bill 7772, which allocates funds for crucial school safety and security improvements benefiting all students and associated faculty within Rhode Island's educational institutions.

The allocation of thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) from the capital funds allocated to school construction in the fiscal year 2023-2024 state budget, with each public school receiving one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), will enable significant enhancements to school safety infrastructure. This includes implementing advanced audio and visual systems, access control mechanisms, and communication upgrades, all of which are vital components of modern school security.

Ensuring the safety of our students and educators should be a top priority for our state. By investing in these critical improvements, we are taking proactive measures to prevent potential threats and create a secure learning environment for everyone.

It is imperative that we support this bill to provide our schools with the necessary resources to enhance safety protocols. Our students across the state deserve to feel protected and secure in their educational environments, and House Bill 7772 represents a tangible commitment towards achieving this goal.

We urge your support of this bill. Together, we can make a meaningful impact on the safety and well-being of our communities.

On behalf of the League of Cities and Towns, thank you for considering our testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David M. Bodah".

David M. Bodah  
Associate Director

Cc: House Finance Committee  
Ernie Almonte, Executive Director