



Hon. Marvin L. Abney
Chair of the House Committee on Finance
Members of the House Committee on Finance

RE: Support for House Bill #5751

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I write to you as Co-Chair of the Rhode Island Black, Latino, Indigenous, Asian American, and Pacific Islander (RIBLIA) Caucus in strong support of House Bill #5751. Today, our Caucus stands at the largest it's ever been with 21 members representing communities all over our state.

This year, our caucus is prioritizing 15 bills that reflect our unwavering commitment to defending the marginalized and ensuring a fair and equitable future for all Rhode Islanders. **Aligning with our commitment to promoting transparency and accountability, the RIBLIA Caucus supports House Bill #5751 by Rep. Giraldo, provides that a student's enrollment in Medicaid would be included in calculating and determining the student success factor for use in the foundation education-aid formula.**

This bill addresses a vital gap in how we identify and support high-need students. By incorporating Medicaid enrollment as a proxy for economic disadvantages, this legislation ensures that more students from low-income backgrounds are accurately recognized and equitably funded. It builds on existing measures like SNAP enrollment, offering a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to determining student need. House Bill No. 5751 is a crucial step toward promoting equity in our public education system. It will help direct critical resources to students who need them most—many of whom come from communities that the RIBLIA Caucus represents and fights for every day.

Members of the RIBLIA Caucus urge the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DM", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rep. David Morales, Co-Chair RIBLIA Caucus