



May 1, 2025

Dear Chairman and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Immigrant Coalition and our 38 member organizations, I ask this Committee to support House Bill 5745, which would reduce the time required for students to meet the residency requirement from 3 years to 6 months for in-state tuition, regardless of immigration status.

An immigrant is no less of a Rhode Islander than someone from, say, California. We see no reason in having a bias based on immigration status, with citizens having a requirement of one year and non-citizens three years. We believe 6 months is a fair and sufficient time for anyone to be considered for in-state tuition.

The current state of affairs increases inequality. We urge this Committee to stand with us and increase fair access to education for all in Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Juan Pablo Ocampo Sheen, Coordinator
c/o Immigrant Coalition of Rhode Island
immigrantcoalitionri@gmail.com



THE IMMIGRANT COALITION OF RHODE ISLAND MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

American Civil Liberties Union of Rhode Island (ACLU RI)
AMOR: Alliance to Mobilize Our Resistance
Alliance of Rhode Island Southeast Asians for Education (ARISE)
Center for Justice RI
Coalition for a Multilingual RI (CMRI)
Coalition of Advocates for Student Opportunities (CASO)
Conexión Latina Newport
Connecting for Children and Families
DARE: Direct Action For Rights And Equality
Diocese of Providence
Dorcas International Institute
Economic Progress Institute
Elmwood Avenue Church of God Refugee Relief
First Unitarian Church of Providence Sanctuary Group
Fuerza Laboral
International House of Rhode Island
Latino Policy Institute
New Bridges for Haitian Success
Olneyville Neighborhood Association (ONA)
Olneyville Resilience Hub
Oasis International
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England
Progreso Latino
Providence Youth Student Movement (PrYSM)
Refugee Dream Center
Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV)
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
RI Coalition for Children and Families
RI Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty
RI State Council of Churches
RWU Immigration Law Clinic
RWU Pro Bono Collaborative
Sisters of Mercy
Sojourner House
Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice
The Jewish Alliance of Greater RI
The Liberian Community Association
Truth in Immigration Project