



COMMUNITY COLLEGE
OF RHODE ISLAND

May 1, 2025

Office of the President

The Honorable Marvin Abney
Chairman, House Committee on Finance
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H5745, An Act Relating to Education – Council on Postsecondary Education – Student Success Act

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Committee,

I write to express the Community College of Rhode Island's strong support for House Bill 5745, which would reduce the residency requirement for students from three years to six months in order to qualify for in-state tuition. On behalf of CCRI and the students we serve, I thank Representative Diaz and the co-sponsors of this legislation for their leadership in advancing a more inclusive and equitable approach to tuition policy in Rhode Island.

CCRI is proud to serve as Rhode Island's only public community college and to be the most accessible entry point into higher education for thousands of students each year. We welcome learners from all walks of life, including many new residents who live, work, and contribute meaningfully to our communities. These students face significant financial challenges in accessing higher education, and in-state tuition eligibility can make a life-changing difference.

H5745 will remove barriers and allow more students who have demonstrated a commitment to our state by living here the opportunity to access an affordable education and invest in their futures. We know from national data that states with more inclusive tuition policies see stronger enrollment and completion outcomes. By adopting this commonsense policy change, Rhode Island can retain and nurture a broader pool of talented individuals, strengthen our workforce, and reaffirm our commitment to educational equity.

We appreciate your consideration of this important legislation and your continued commitment to Rhode Island's students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Rosemary A. Costigan'.

Rosemary A. Costigan, Ph.D., RN
Interim President
Community College of Rhode Island

Knight Campus

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