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Representative Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in support of House Bill 5473, also known as the "Revenue for Rhode Island" bill, sponsored by Representative Karen Alzate.

As someone working part-time and relying on Medicaid, I see firsthand how rising costs, driven by federal tax policies that favor the ultra-rich, are making it harder for ordinary people to afford basic needs. I'm deeply concerned about the potential for federal cuts to programs like Medicaid in order to fund tax breaks for billionaires. This bill would help our state push back against those harmful federal choices by raising state revenue in a fair and sustainable way.

Throughout my life, I've depended on public services like Medicaid, public schools, and infrastructure like roads and parks. These services are essential, not just for me, but for the health and well-being of our entire community. By increasing taxes on the top 1%—those most able to afford it—we can generate \$190 million in new revenue that would protect and improve these vital services. With local school budgets already straining our towns and pushing up property taxes, we need this new funding to relieve that pressure and ensure quality education for all Rhode Islanders.

Raising taxes on the wealthiest is not about punishing success; it's about ensuring everyone contributes fairly. Right now, everyday Rhode Islanders are being asked to shoulder more while the wealthiest pay less, proportionally. That's not sustainable, and it's not right.

Please support House Bill 5473. Let's ensure Rhode Island can meet today's challenges with strong public services, equitable tax policy, and a commitment to the well-being of every resident—not just the wealthiest few.

Respectfully,  
Brian Monteverd