



Conor Gillies

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.

This bill is a classic "no-brainer" in the sense that it addresses crucial problems posed by decades of austerity and neglect. I live in Federal Hill, where schools and roads are literally falling apart. The inequality on display is stark and harrowing, with Rhode Islanders around the city living hungry on the street, on the one hand, and, on the other, incredible wealth being accumulated by top income earners. The mayor poses inadequate, if not totally misguided, solutions to improve these conditions: handouts to developers, property tax hikes that will burden the working class, the partial privatization of schools by bringing in new charters, possible cuts to community services... People are rightly angry about the status quo.

We need to get to the root of the underlying problems and provide a better vision for Providence's future. A more progressive income tax is the most basic first step for any hope of funding strong, universal public services.

Respectfully,  
Conor Gillies