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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.

I may be unique in that I am writing in support of a tax from the perspective of a family that may have to pay more in taxes. Our family is on the border of income that would qualify us to be taxed should this pass. If our income makes us eligible for this tax we will happily pay in the hope that this additional tax revenue will support medicaid, public schools and RI infrastructure.

Our family has decided to send our daughters to public middle and high school in RI after sending our children to a private school for most of elementary school. We have seen first hand the disparity in resources between public and private schools. Our public schools are in desperate need of funding. There are many dedicated teachers who deserve to be supported and smaller class sizes would make a difference in helping the least fortunate of children (and their teachers).

Federal support for public health has crumbled under the Trump administration. To continue to deliver healthcare, particularly to RI's most vulnerable families will increasingly fall on the states over the next four years. This additional revenue could support community health programs improving access to healthcare of our neighbors and hardworking people across our state.

I'm sure you will hear from many people who support this tax but may only see benefits as they will not be subject to the tax. You may also hear from people who will have their taxes increased and feel this is unjust. However, I hope you take my perspective into account as someone who may see increased taxes but believes this is the right and just thing to do and is willing to pay more in the hopes that this additional revenue will benefit our community.

Respectfully,
Jeff Manning