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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 an arts educator who has relied on Medicaid and public services in the past for my survival, it is important that we continue funding and increase funding for these services so that all Rhode Islanders can make ends meet and thrive. Taxing the rich will increase revenue for our public services that so desperately need funding. Our schools, particularly districts like Providence and Woonsocket, are in a funding crisis. Taxing the rich Rhode Islanders, many of whom only reside here for vacation homes, would benefit our schools and make sure that all Rhode Islanders get the education they deserve. I teach in Providence Schools as an auxiliary educator through our libraries and have seen first hand how budget cuts impact our students, our education facilities, and the quality of their education.

Additionally, our roads are a mess and desperately need attention. From the Washington Bridge to everyday pot holes, we need more revenue to make our roads and transit systems run smoothly.

Thank you

Respectfully,
Kristen Haines