

Chris O'Brien

From: Laura Hodges <lehodges@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 9:25 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: In Support of House Bill 5473/Senate Bill 329

Dear Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am a community psychiatrist at Thrive Behavioral Health in Warwick, RI, where I serve some of the most vulnerable people in Rhode Island. I am also a resident of Providence, RI. This testimony reflects my own thoughts. I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 5473, entitled "AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PERSONAL INCOME TAX," which will create an additional tax rate of 3% for the top 1% of filers on taxable income above \$625,000.

In my work, I bear witness on a daily basis to the vital importance of programs and services such as Medicaid, SNAP, and RIPTA, which allow my patients to survive and access necessary healthcare, nutrition, and transportation. These services are threatened by our Rhode Island state budget gap as well as by federal budget cuts that are likely to be made in the coming months. House Bill 5473 provides an equitable way to keep these services funded and viable. This bill would help ensure that everyone is paying their fair share of taxes while helping to fund these critically important programs that my patients depend on to survive.

Rhode Island needs this to be passed now, and I urge you to vote in favor of House Bill 5473. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Laura Hodges, MD