

May 6, 2025

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

RE: Support for H5473

I write to urge you to support H5473 sponsored by Representatives Alzate Shanley, Morales, Ajello, Spears, Carson, Felix, Cortvriend, Fogarty and Edwards.

The bill would add a 3% surtax on taxable income over \$625,000. It is estimated that this would only impact about 1% of the state's more than 500,000 tax filers and generate \$190 Million in new revenue.

Our state faces significant fiscal challenges with projected budget deficits along with the uncertainty about the potential loss of federal funds and/or elimination of programs in a number of important areas.

As a former member of the House of Representative and Director of the state Department of Elderly Affairs I am deeply concerned that Rhode Island may need to cut back on important services and programs that benefit so many including our older population who need support to remain living at home or who depend on our Medicaid program to get quality nursing home care as alarming instances of poor care increase. Likewise, I am concerned for families with children who rely on Medicaid for healthcare coverage and getting a good education.

Important programs that keep our population healthy and safe must be preserved. I urge the Committee to recommend passage of this bill to the full House for a vote with the hope that part of the revenue realized is used to expand programs such as the Medicare Savings Programs for our lower-income older adults and adults with disabilities who are in need of your support as they deal with their healthcare issues while trying to afford other basic needs in these times of such high costs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Maureen Maigret