



Merrill Schmidt
272 Smith St., Apt 1
Cranston, RI 02905
7206622819

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.

My name is Merrill Schmidt, and I live in Cranston, RI. I am a member of Reclaim RI and the RI Working Families Party. I also work with high school students at a nonprofit organization in Providence. I'm writing in support of the Revenue for Rhode Islanders bill, which would create an additional tax rate 3% on taxable income over \$625,000.

I believe the Personal Income Tax bill is an important step towards addressing wealth/ income inequality as well as helping pay for critical services and resources in our state. With the federal funding being slashed, we need to find additional sources of revenue to balance the budget while ensuring that essential services in our state aren't cut. I think this bill is a very reasonable step to addressing the challenging financial situation in our state. I do not want to see my neighbors suffer needlessly from cuts to Medicaid, SNAP, or other benefits. I want to be able to send my son to pre-K and public school when he is old enough, and I do not want to see a complete disruption in the public education system. I want to know that state regulators can help ensure safe water, food, and products for our communities. I am very concerned about federal cuts to public infrastructure and services, but I believe that we can prevent some of the damage from the federal cuts by passing the Revenue for Rhode Islanders bill and looking for other ways to bolster the state's budget.

Respectfully,
Merrill Schmidt