

## Chris O'Brien

---

**From:** isaacp1@verizon.net  
**Sent:** Monday, May 5, 2025 4:27 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Rep. Shekarchi, K Joseph; Rep. Abney, Marvin L.; Sen. Lawson, Valarie J; Sen. DiPalma, Louis P.; governor@governor.ri.gov; sen-lamountain@rilegislature.g; Rep. Potter, Brandon C.  
**Subject:** H-5473/S-329

314 Magnolia St.

Cranston, RI, 02910

May, 5, 2025

Dear Legislators,

I'm writing in support of H-5473/S-329. I recently retired, ending a 50-year career in early childhood education. As you are probably aware, early childhood education is chronically underfunded, and we have reached a crisis point because we cannot recruit and retain qualified staff with our current salary levels. For all of my 50 years in the field, state governments have told us "We cannot afford to spend more," and/or "Now is not the right time." Meanwhile, many state services have never recovered from cuts going back as far as the 2008 recession! Impending funding reductions from the federal government will likely make these situations even more dire. The only viable solution to this problem (and other our unmet state financial needs, such as our uncompetitive Medicaid reimbursement rates) is to raise more revenue, and the only realistic place where that revenue can come from is the wealthiest 1% of our population. That is exactly what H-5473 and S-329 propose. Keep in mind that the proposed federal budget and tax plan would retain and/or increase massive tax cuts for wealthy people, including those in our state. Keep in mind as well that despite myths and propaganda, there is little or no evidence that raising taxes on those with exceptionally high wealth or incomes leads to flight by millionaires or billionaires. The money is there. The need is evident. The method of obtaining the needed revenues is here. The time is now!

Sincerely,

Sanford (Sandy) Pliskin

401-439-5685