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From: Agartan, Tuba <tagartan@providence.edu>
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 7:41 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Support H 5473

May 6, 2025

The Honorable Marvin Abney
HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov
Chairman, House Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House – Room 35
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

SUPPORT H 5473

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing today express my strong support for H 5473, which seeks to increase personal income tax rates. Higher taxes for high income earners will help the state budget and support the social programs many Rhode Islanders need to flourish and contribute to their communities.

The opponents argue that proposed increase in H 5473 is aimed directly at small “mom and pop” businesses that pay taxes as a pass-through entity. They claim that higher taxes will only serve to burden successful small businesses, making it harder to create jobs and contribute to the local economy. But we know that this tax is aimed at the highest earners who can use this to support their communities through improving public schools in the state, supporting the HealthSource RI, public transport, parks and many other wonderful services provided by our state. As a person who lived and currently works at Providence, I believe that we must invest in our communities and balance the severe impacts of federal cuts.

I wish the opponents could look beyond the arguments of competitiveness and creating jobs. Without housing, education, clean drinking water, health insurance, etc. competitiveness means very little. Businesses will choose locations where the standard of life is high, there is a well-educated workforce, neighborhoods are safe, and arts and cultural activities create vibrancy! They can choose RI for these purposes and not for low taxes.

Sincerely,
Tuba Agartan

Professor, Health Sciences
Business & Innovation Minor