

5/6/25

RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chair Abney and the Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am a resident of Warwick, and I am in strong support of HR 5473. At a time when federal funding is highly jeopardized which funds crucial state programs and services to Rhode Islanders, it is the right time to implement a new tax on high earners. We have seen the results of the millionaire's tax in Massachusetts, and it has increased the tax base without a flight of high earners. The deep income inequality in Rhode Island needs solutions and this is an important one that will allow RIPTA, education and other programs to continue to be funded at their necessary service levels.

Throughout my life, my family and I have needed to rely on public services. When I was young, my family received welfare as they struggled with inflation and housing costs as a young family in the 1980's. I attended public schools throughout my life and graduated from the University of Rhode Island. While I served in AmeriCorps over 10 years ago, I relied on SNAP to feed myself. For many years, I relied upon Medicaid expansion to access healthcare through state health connectors. While I am fortunate enough today to live a relatively secure life, my own experiences have shown me how vital these programs are. Many people in Rhode Island are struggling and are not so fortunate as I am. Nearly all residents in Rhode Island will rely on public benefits and services at one time or another in their lives. Building a thriving state requires public funds and the political will to ask high earners to pay their fair share. I urge you to support HR 5473.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Maikath', with a stylized, flowing script.

Tyler Maikath  
Warwick, RI 02889