



Representative Marvin Abney, Chair  
House Finance Committee

May 15, 2025

**Support for H5200 – Early Educator Workforce Act**

Chair Abney and Members of the Committee,

Rhode Island Working Families Party writes in strong support of H5200, which aims to improve the child care system in Rhode Island. Working Families Power supports policies that promote economic justice and gender equity and that allow children and families across the state to thrive. This legislation would help accomplish those goals by ensuring that families in Rhode Island have access to the critical infrastructure that is early education and that child care educators are able to make a living wage.

Rep. Donovan's bill, H5200, would help raise wages for early educators and allow them provide for their families and stay in a field they love and have trained for. Child care educators are primarily women and currently have some of the lowest wages in the state. This bill would help change that and address Rhode Island's severe early childhood educator shortage.

Early education is critical for families and children across the state. But currently, families are struggling to find affordable quality child care, and educators who love their jobs and have trained for careers in early education can not afford to stay in the field. Rhode Island must ensure that early educators are valued and compensated on par with their counterparts in K-12 education, and that families are able to find and afford child care that meets their needs. This bill would help accomplish those goals, and we hope that the legislature will move forward with enacting it.

Respectfully submitted,

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