

Dear Chairman Abney, Chairman DiPalma, and Committee Members,

I'm Aubrey Schabowsky and I am writing in support of House Bill No. H5744 and Senate Bill No. S754. I am a parent, educator and community member from North Kingstown RI.

I care about this because I work with paraprofessionals pursuing teacher certification (many of whom are bi/ multilingual themselves) who are incredibly dedicated to meeting the needs of the bi/multilingual student population. Currently, our workforce is woefully unprepared to meet these student needs and we must do better for the young people in our state and for the educators dedicating their lives to helping our young people thrive.

This bill matters because:

It promotes equity. Over 40% of students in urban districts speak a language other than English at home. We need teachers who understand our communities and can help all students succeed, no matter their background.

It strengthens our economy. Rhode Island needs bilingual workers. This bill invests in future educators who will prepare students with the language skills employers are already demanding.

It supports excellence. Bilingual education and world language programs lead to better academic results, stronger critical thinking, and global readiness. We need more teachers to expand these opportunities.

Please support this bill and invest in the success of our educators.

Thank you,
Aubrey Schabowsky