

May 15, 2025

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is George Nippo, and I am writing in strong support of House Bills No. 5744 and 5982. I am the father of bilingual children who attend public school in Cranston, Rhode Island. Cranston is the second largest city in the state, with a growing multilingual population. It would be great if more schools in the state could offer children the opportunity to build on their multi-lingual strengths by reinforcing the languages spoken at home.

I believe one of the reasons that the bilingual programs are not offered has to do with staffing of certified teachers. My hope is that by passing House Bills No. 5744 and 5982 the number of bilingual, dual language and world language teachers in the state will increase and as a result such programs will become more available to the young people of the state who deserve it.

I respectfully urge you to support this bill and invest in the academic success, workforce readiness, and equitable opportunities of Rhode Island's multilingual students.

Thank you,
George Nippo