

Honorable Legislators, Representatives and all those present.

Thanking you for the work you are doing on behalf of teachers, especially World Languages Educators, this time I am Rosangel Paulino, a Master's student in World Language Education at Rhode Island College, Spanish Teacher at Pawtucket School Department, and I strongly urge you to pass Bills H5744 and H5782, which provides investment legislation for Bilingual, Dual Language, and World Language Teachers.

Bill H5744 will be of great help to the entire community, as the large number of students entering schools requires more qualified and certified teachers, which is why the passage of this legislation is necessary. It's a reality: we need more teachers, classrooms are full, teachers get sick, and no substitutes are available because we need to continue investing in certifications to be accredited to teach. Five years ago, I arrived in this country with a full folder of qualifications but with the limitation of not being certified. My beginnings as a TA and substitute teacher (which meant I had no job and no income), the Emergency Certificate, and RI Reconnect brought peace of mind so I could dedicate myself to teaching and continue the process with RIDE for my official certification.

This process requires financial resources, as many educators have the skills but lack the income to do.

The Bill (H5744) is another great step for the community because we will all benefit: families, because their children will not have limitations in learning, because schools will have qualified teachers, and teachers will also be motivated because our representatives are taking us into account.

The Bill H5982, which creates an incentive for schools to initiate, expand, and improve K-12 dual language programs, would encourage the learning of another language and help teachers enhance their professional development through ongoing training. As a resident of Providence, Rhode Island, it is an honor to share my experience in this petition to pass H5744 and H5782, which will be another step forward for the education sector.

It's important that you reiterate your support for House Bill 5982 and H5744, the Support and Access to Bilingual Education (SABE) Act, which will help districts launch or expand dual-language programs.

Legislators: The Time is Now!!!!

Thank you

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