



May 15, 2025

Dear Chairman and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Immigrant Coalition and our 38 member organizations, I ask this Committee to support House Bill H5982, which would create a dual language program fund administered by RIDE for districts to start, expand, and improve PK-12 dual language programs.

Over 40% of students in Rhode Island's urban districts speak a language other than English at home. Expanding bilingual education ensures all students—regardless of background—can thrive academically and professionally. Research shows that bilingual education leads to stronger academic outcomes for both multilingual learners and English-dominant students, making it the gold standard in education.

We urge this Committee to stand with us and invest in the success of Rhode Island students.

Sincerely,

Juan Pablo Ocampo Sheen, Coordinator
c/o Immigrant Coalition of Rhode Island
immigrantcoalitionri@gmail.com



THE IMMIGRANT COALITION OF RHODE ISLAND MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

American Civil Liberties Union of Rhode Island (ACLU RI)
AMOR: Alliance to Mobilize Our Resistance
Alliance of Rhode Island Southeast Asians for Education (ARISE)
Center for Justice RI
Coalition for a Multilingual RI (CMRI)
Coalition of Advocates for Student Opportunities (CASO)
Conexión Latina Newport
Connecting for Children and Families
DARE: Direct Action For Rights And Equality
Diocese of Providence
Dorcas International Institute
Economic Progress Institute
Elmwood Avenue Church of God Refugee Relief
First Unitarian Church of Providence Sanctuary Group
Fuerza Laboral
International House of Rhode Island
Latino Policy Institute
New Bridges for Haitian Success
Olneyville Neighborhood Association (ONA)
Olneyville Resilience Hub
Oasis International
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England
Progreso Latino
Providence Youth Student Movement (PrYSM)
Refugee Dream Center
Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV)
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
RI Coalition for Children and Families
RI Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty
RI State Council of Churches
RWU Immigration Law Clinic
RWU Pro Bono Collaborative
Sisters of Mercy
Sojourner House
Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice
The Jewish Alliance of Greater RI
The Liberian Community Association
Truth in Immigration Project