

TO: Representative Diaz and members of the House Committee on Finance

FROM: Susan Hodgins

RE: Support: HB-5281

DATE: May 21, 2025

To Rep Diaz and the House Committee on Finance:

My name is Susan Hodgins and I live in Cranston, RI.

I am writing to urge you to support HB-5281.

As a teacher for the past 27 years, I have witnessed the increasing difficulties that families with young children face in finding affordable, accessible, and high-quality childcare. Working parents need options that are financially reasonable. My husband and I had no family to rely on for help, and we managed to pay for childcare for our 2 now-adult children.

But currently, too many families are now struggling because of high RI eligibility rates and low reimbursements which have led to fewer facilities offering services and fewer families qualifying for help – both leading to fewer young adults in the workplace. Infant/childcare is difficult work, and workers need to be paid a fair wage. CCAP is important for families and necessary for the RI economy to thrive.

Please support the Childcare is Essential Act!

Sincerely,

Susan Hodgins