

**TO:** Representative Handy and members of the House Committee on Finance

**FROM:** Susan Hodgkin

**RE: Support:** HB-5992

**DATE:** May 21, 2025

To Rep Handy and the House Committee on Finance:

My name is Susan Hodgkin and I live in Cranston, RI.  
I am writing to urge you to support HB-5992.

As a teacher for the past 27 years, I have witnessed the increasing difficulties that families face with the costs of raising children. Even families with 2 working parents face challenges, and families with low-paying jobs and/or special needs find it nearly impossible to keep pace with the prices of current housing, childcare, food, and clothing demands. Rhode Island should not have families living in deep poverty. Families need a cost-of-living increase to keep up with our current economic situation, and RI has excess federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funds for this purpose.

Lawful Permanent Residents should receive timely help, without a 5-year wait period. 5 years of malnourishment and lack of quality care in a child's life has permanent negative impacts on their futures. These people are "Lawful Residents," and should be treated with compassion and care.

Please support Improving RI Works!

Sincerely,

Susan Hodgkin