

March 3, 2026

The Honorable Chair Marvin Abney
Chair, House Finance Committee
RI State House

Re: **Support** for H7127 (Article 5, Section 6)

Dear Chair Abney:

RIPIN writes in strong support of establishing a surtax on Rhode Island's ultra-high-income households. This policy is a fair, evidence-based, and urgently needed step to ensure Rhode Island can adequately fund essential services for children and families.

RIPIN is statewide nonprofit that helps families and individuals across the lifespan with navigating special education, health care, and healthy aging. RIPIN is peer-led, meaning that most of our staff and board are parents or caregivers to a loved one with a disability. We care deeply about the well-being of children and the economic stability of families across our state. I urge you to support this proposal for reducing child poverty and strengthening family financial security.

The 2025 federal HR1 slashed support for low-income households—including cuts to SNAP and Medicaid at the same time as health insurance subsidies expired, which means reduced access to healthcare and food. Without additional state revenue, Rhode Island will not be able to counteract these federal cuts or meet growing needs.

For nearly two decades, Rhode Island has struggled to fully fund programs that support children's health, nutrition, and early education. These constraints directly affect children's access to stable care and families' ability to work. The proposals before the legislature ask the very highest income households to contribute a modest surtax. These taxes apply only to income, not assets. A fair contribution from the wealthiest households would allow Rhode Island to provide economic support to public services facing increased pressure from rising costs.

This surtax strengthens the state's ability to invest in children and families without burdening middle- or low-income residents. I respectfully urge the Committee to support this policy and ensure that Rhode Island can meet the moment.

/s/
Sincerely,

Tara Hayes
Thayes@ripin.org
401-248-4894

