

Official Testimony: House Committee on Finance

Date: February 25, 2026

To: [HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov)

Subject: Testimony in Support of Governor's Utility Bill Relief (Article 11)

To the Chairperson and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

My name is Dr. Larome Myrick, and I am a resident of Providence, Rhode Island. I am writing to submit my formal written testimony regarding the state budget. This is my first time testifying before this body, and I am doing so to advocate for the financial well-being of my community and my household.

I am writing to express my strong support for the Governor's utility bill relief proposal in Article 11, Sections 3 through 11 of the budget.

In my professional life and as a resident of 12 Eagle Street, I see the compounding pressure that rising costs place on Rhode Islanders. I am deeply concerned about the total cost of my utility bill, particularly the "delivery charges" portion. It is a significant burden to realize that approximately one-quarter of the total bill is comprised of state programs and taxes rather than actual energy usage.

Why Lowering These Charges is Essential:

- **Financial Relief:** Lowering delivery charges and addressing the hidden costs in the supply portion is vital for the stability of my family and the broader Providence community.
- **Preventing Scheduled Increases:** Under current law, these charges are actually set to increase. I strongly support the Governor's plan to lower them instead, providing a necessary course correction during a time of high inflation.
- **Transparency:** Many of these charges are "hidden" from the average consumer. Passing Article 11 ensures that the state is taking an active role in making utilities more affordable and transparent.

High utility costs act as a regressive tax on those who can least afford it. By supporting the relief measures in Article 11, you are providing immediate and tangible help to hardworking residents across the state.

I urge the Committee to support the Governor's proposal and provide this much-needed relief to Rhode Island ratepayers.

Sincerely,

Dr. Larome Myrick 12 Eagle Street, 12-404 Providence, RI 02908