



*Distinctive Communities  
Powerful Alliance*

April 16, 2026

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chair  
House Finance Committee  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: HOUSE BILL 7500 - AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- TEACHERS' RETIREMENT

Chair Abney and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, we write to express our appreciation for the intent behind House Bill 7500, which seeks to enhance retirement benefits for teachers and state employees.

The League would like to recognize and thank our teachers and public sector employees for their continued dedication to serving Rhode Island's communities. Teachers, in particular, play a vital role in educating and supporting our cities and towns' most valuable resource, our students, and we deeply value their contributions.

House Bill 7500 proposes to modify the retirement benefit calculation by changing the applicable cutoff date from July 1, 2024, to July 1, 2009, and by defining average compensation as the average of the highest three consecutive years of earnings. While we understand the intent to improve retirement security for public employees, this change may have significant fiscal implications.

Given that municipalities are responsible for a substantial share of employer contributions to the Employees' Retirement System, any enhancement to pension benefits could result in increased costs for cities and towns. These costs would ultimately be borne by local taxpayers.

Given these uncertainties, the League Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 22-12-3, the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns is noting possible municipal fiscal impacts and requesting a fiscal note for the Committee's consideration. This would provide important clarity for policymakers and municipal leaders as they evaluate the long-term effects of the proposed changes.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with the General Assembly on policies that support both our valued public employees and the fiscal stability of our municipalities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R.R. Rossi".

Randy R. Rossi  
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Finance Committee