

April 27, 2026

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing to express my strong support for Joint Resolution H7011, which appropriates funding for the Rhode Island Auditory Oral Program (RIAOP). I respectfully urge the Committee

to consider that this funding be provided in a manner that allows for the RIAOP to continue receiving annual support beyond the 2026-2027 school year.

The Rhode Island Auditory Oral Program is a crucial statewide educational program whose mission is “To prepare children with hearing loss for an education in their community schools by

providing them with the tools they will need for successful inclusion and achievement [while

striving] to empower their families with the knowledge and confidence necessary to support their

children in their lifelong journeys.”

As an educator of children served by the Program, I have seen firsthand the meaningful impact this Program has on children and families across Rhode Island. This program has given these students access to the curriculum as well as access to social growth within the school environment.

This funding will directly support the Program’s mission of supporting families who choose a

spoken language modality for their children and allow it to continue delivering high-quality services that are not readily available elsewhere in the state.

I respectfully urge you to support this resolution and approve the proposed appropriation to the

Rhode Island Auditory Oral Program.

Sincerely,

Amy Sencer

Special Education Teacher- Hope Highlands Middle School

Cranston, RI