

**Association of RI Administrators of Special Education: In support of H 7011**

April 28, 2026

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chairman  
House Finance Committee  
Rhode Island General Assembly  
73 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Abney,

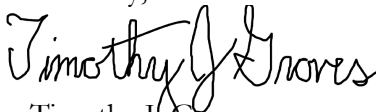
I write as legal counsel for the Association of Rhode Island Administrators of Special Education (“ARIASE”) to submit this written testimony in support of H 7011, which appropriates funding for the Rhode Island Auditory Oral Program (“RIAOP”). ARIASE is the lone statewide association of special education administrators in Rhode Island, and its members are passionately committed to serving students with disabilities and working collaboratively and constructively with their families to enhance their educational opportunities and outcomes.

The RIAOP is a crucial statewide educational program that was established 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” and “to empower their families with the knowledge and confidence necessary to support their children in their lifelong journeys.”

The special education professionals that make up ARIASE’s membership have seen firsthand the meaningful impact this Program has on children and families across Rhode Island over the years. Continued funding of RIAOP is critically important to support the students who utilize a spoken language modality to access their education.

ARIASE is grateful to the sponsors for H 7011 for introducing and championing this important legislation, and we welcome the opportunity to speak with you and any other members of the Finance Committee regarding its merits. ARIASE enthusiastically supports passage of H 7011. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Timothy J. Groves