



Association of Independent
Colleges & Universities of Rhode Island

50 Park Row West, Suite 100, Providence, RI 02903 | 401.272.8270 | aicuri.org

May 5, 2026

The Honorable Representative Marvin Abney
Chair, House Committee on Finance
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H7239

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the member institutions of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Rhode Island (AICU *Rhode Island*), I am writing to express our support of **House Bill 7239**.

The four Providence-based private higher education institutions are strongly committed to ensuring that the city benefits from their presence. As you are aware, Brown University, Johnson & Wales, Providence College, and Rhode Island School of Design collectively negotiated a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the City of Providence in 2023. These voluntary MOU payments and annual reporting of community contributions demonstrates the four Providence-based institutions' commitment to the city they call home.

Beyond these payments, Institutions of higher education have a tremendous impact on the state's economy. In total, the sector generates \$4.6 billion in direct and induced spending and supports more than 30,000 jobs. As the host to four of the eight non-profit institutions, Providence receives the lion's share of these benefits.

H7239, which allocates a portion of income taxes generated by new employment at non-profit institutions of higher education and health care, further expands upon these voluntary payments and economic impact. By allowing Providence to receive a share of income taxes from employment growth, this legislation would further support a symbiotic relationship between the institutions and Providence.

With these points in mind, AICU *Rhode Island* strongly supports the passage of **House Bill 7239**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan", is positioned above the name of the sender.

Daniel P. Egan
President