



Rhode Island Association for the
Education of Young Children



Right from the
Start

Chairman Abney and members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing to voice my support for **HB7317: An Act Relating To Education -- Rhode Island Early Educator Workforce Act**, which would continue funding for WAGE\$, which provides education-based salary supplements to center-based educators and family childcare providers working with children in an early childhood setting.

My name is Brenda Rodriguez, and I am a Teacher's Assistant at Children's Friend. This wage supplement has been an appreciated financial help over the past few years. I've used part of the money to add to my savings for my 3 children and me, and also to pay bills. From my coworkers' testimonies, I can attest that it has been financially helpful for every single one of them. We have been very eager to be recognized.

It is very important that you continue to improve our lives financially. Even if it is only twice a year, it is a tremendous help to our families in need. Please continue to provide these funds as an incentive and recognition of our very important work with children.

Sincerely,

Brenda Rodriguez