



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 Emily Rezendes, and I am a Lead Teacher at the Children's Workshop. This supplement has been life-changing for me! Early childhood educators do not make enough money and have a very hard Job. We work long days and don't get summers off. It is nice to know that we have some type of cash bonus coming our way. The educators in this field are very tired from being overworked and overpaid, so we are very appreciative of this bonus incentive.

Sincerely,

Emily Rezendes