



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 Hailey Otero, and I am a Toddler Teacher at Little Learners Academy of Smithfield. Besides contributing to my classroom, this funding has helped me to stay afloat in my personal life. Not only has the program funding been beneficial for my personal life, but it has given me the financial means to purchase materials and other supplies for my classroom!

This wage supplement makes teachers feel appreciated for all the work that they do.

Sincerely,

Hailey Otero