



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 Savannah Murchison, and I am a Lead Toddler Teacher at Sunshine Child Development Center. The wage supplement has helped me mentally, which in turn has helped me work with my children. Not having to worry about money makes it much easier to focus on the children in my care. It has come through and helped me so much in my time of need; I don't know where I would be right now without it. This supplement helps me tremendously and enables me to care for my favorite little humans.

Education is so important right now, and having teachers is so important for the future, especially with everything going on. This wage supplement ensures teachers can do their jobs as stress-free as possible.

Sincerely,

Savannah Murchison