



RHODE ISLAND
FEDERATION OF TEACHERS AND
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AFT
AFL - CIO

To: House Finance Committee
From: Jeremy Sencer, RIFTHP Field Representative
Date: April 28, 2026
Re: Inclusion of Medicaid Enrollment in Education Aid Formula
Testimony in **Support of H 7454** (Giraldo, et al.)

On behalf of RIFTHP, I submit testimony in support of H 7454, legislation that addresses gaps in how Rhode Island identifies student need by incorporating Medicaid enrollment into the school funding formula.

Rhode Island's funding formula must accurately capture student poverty in order to direct resources where they are most needed. Current measures do not always reflect the full scope of economic disadvantage, particularly as participation in traditional programs changes over time. As a result, some high-need students may not be fully accounted for in funding calculations.

H 7454 improves the accuracy of the formula by expanding how the state identifies students eligible for the student success factor. By including Medicaid enrollment, the bill ensures that more students experiencing economic hardship are recognized, which in turn directs additional resources to the districts serving them.

This is a practical, data-driven update that strengthens the foundation formula and supports more equitable distribution of education funding across Rhode Island.

For these reasons, RIFTHP urges the Committee to support H 7454.

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