

Subject: SUPPORT for S2233 / H7581 – Equity and Accountability in Civics

Adam C. Robitaille

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Dear Chair and Members of the Finance Committee:

My name is Adam Robitaille, and I am live in Newport. I am writing to advocate for the passage of **S2233 and H7581**.

Our state needs a dedicated \$1 million categorical fund to ensure equitable civic education. By prioritizing student population size, socioeconomic status, and various dimensions of need, RIDE can ensure that funding is distributed equitably and that students of all backgrounds, not just those in districts that already have the most resources, can afford high-quality civics.

By moving beyond rote memorization to applied, experiential learning, this funding equips our students with durable, real-world college and career skills—such as consensus-building, collaborative problem-solving, media literacy, and public speaking—fostering the leadership and resilience necessary to navigate a complex workforce and a diverse, rapidly developing society.

I've seen the value of civics education while attending Civics Day at the State House. Sponsored by Generation Citizen New England, this event is like a science fair for civics and provides students with the opportunity to address a problem in their own community and advocate for change in their own way. It's a rewarding experience for all involved.

I also want to highlight the importance of the RI Civic Readiness Task Force. This bill ensures a continuous feedback loop where parents, students, and community advocates have a formalized role in advising the state. This isn't just about writing a check; it's about building an annual cycle of accountability and community-led improvement. Let's make sure every child in Rhode Island has the opportunity to become a lifelong, engaged citizen.

Sincerely,

Adam Robitaille