



FROM: Andrew MacMannis, Collective Action for Education
Testimony in Support of HB7581
April 28, 2026

TO: House Finance Committee
(housefinance@rilegislature.gov)

My name is Andrew MacMannis, Chief of External Affairs for Collective Action for Education, and I am writing in support of HB7581 and its Senate Companion bill SB2233.

A dedicated \$1 million categorical fund is a smart and necessary investment in civic education in Rhode Island. By prioritizing student population size, socioeconomic factors, and levels of need, the Rhode Island Department of Education can distribute these resources equitably, ensuring that access to high-quality civics is not limited to districts with the most existing capacity.

Students deserve the opportunity to build the knowledge and skills needed to navigate and engage in the political process. We should aim for a Rhode Island where students show up to town meetings, school board hearings, and legislative sessions ready to represent themselves and their communities. This investment moves us toward that future, one where the student voice is present, informed, and impactful.

Andrew MacMannis

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew MacMannis", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Chief of External Affairs, Collective Action for Education