

Edward S. Inman III

15 Circle Drive

Coventry, RI

April 28, 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the Finance Committee:

My name is Edward Inman, and I have taught Social Studies in Cranston for 38 years. I am writing to strongly support **S2233 and H7581**.

As an educator, I've seen firsthand how the 2021 mandate is a grand and critical undertaking that, now more than ever, requires more than just a directive; it requires a sustainable funding stream. Currently, over 50% of Rhode Island teachers lack access to specialized civics professional development. This bill changes that by allocating \$600,000 for educator stipends and substitute coverage around professional development and curriculum implementation.

This approach to curriculum is the difference between a student reading about democracy and a student actually practicing it. There is something unique and imperative when you can trade a lived experience for a Chapter 4 summary.

What makes this legislation particularly strong is its sustainability. The fund provides consistent funding year over year, allowing districts and department leads to plan curricula with confidence, knowing they'll be properly supported. Further, the \$400,000 set aside for RIDE ensures there is actual oversight and accountability to track our progress and identify which districts still need help. We cannot ask teachers to fulfill this mandate without the professional support they deserve. I urge a favorable vote.

Best regards,

Edward S. Inman, III