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From: Eliza P <eliza.c.perez@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2026 11:24 AM
To: House Finance Committee
Cc: Rep. Shekarchi, K Joseph; Rep. Cotter, Megan L.; advocacy@aafa.org; Sen. DiPalma, Louis P.
Subject: Time-Sensitive: Support for H.7582

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To the Members of the Rhode Island House Finance Committee:

As founders of Safer Air Safer Schools (www.saferairschools.org), we write in strong support of House Bill 7582, which would establish meaningful indoor air quality standards for Rhode Island schools. We urge the Committee to advance this important legislation without delay.

Safer Air Safer Schools is dedicated to ensuring that every student and educator has access to clean, healthy indoor air. Poor indoor air quality in school buildings is not a minor inconvenience; it is a public health crisis that disproportionately harms students with asthma and allergies, who already face significant barriers to consistent attendance and academic achievement. Asthma is one of the leading causes of school absenteeism in the United States, and children in under-resourced schools are often most exposed to the pollutants and allergens that trigger attacks. H.7582 would take a critical step toward reducing those disparities.

The evidence is clear: when schools invest in clean air, students breathe easier, literally and figuratively. Studies consistently show that improved indoor air quality reduces asthma-related absences, lowers visits to the school nurse, and leads to measurable gains in academic performance. Teachers and staff benefit as well, with fewer sick days and greater productivity. Clean air is not a luxury; it is a foundation for learning.

We also want to highlight that the companion bill, S.2873, sponsored by Senator DiPalma, passed the Rhode Island Senate floor unanimously last month. That unanimous vote is a powerful signal of broad, bipartisan support for this issue across our state. The House now has an opportunity to match that momentum and send a clear message that Rhode Island prioritizes the health of its students.

We respectfully urge the House Finance Committee to support H.7582 and move it forward. Every child deserves to learn in a safe, healthy environment, and clean air is where that starts.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to the health and well-being of Rhode Island students.

Sincerely,

Eliza Coady Perez
Susan Perkins
Ann Marie Faust

Co-Founders,
Safer Air Safer Schools
www.saferairschools.org