



*Distinctive Communities
Powerful Alliance*

April 28, 2026

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chair
House Finance Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: HOUSE BILL 7582 - AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

Chair Abney and Honorable Committee Members,

The Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 7582. The League supports the intent of this legislation, which seeks to improve the health and safety of students by strengthening indoor air quality standards in public schools.

While we are supportive of this goal, we note that implementation of the requirements in this bill will largely fall to municipal and regional school districts, many of which are operating under significant fiscal constraints. We also recognize and appreciate that the legislation includes language conditioning implementation of expanded assessments on the availability of state funding, as well as provisions for enhanced reimbursement for certain qualifying improvements.

However, even with these provisions, the long-term costs associated with compliance, including facility upgrades, HVAC improvements, and remediation of identified deficiencies, will primarily be borne at the local level. As such, the League respectfully encourages the General Assembly to consider additional, sustained state funding support to ensure equitable and consistent implementation across all communities.

The League remains supportive of the intent of the legislation and looks forward to working with the General Assembly and relevant agencies to ensure these important improvements can be achieved in a manner that is both effective and fiscally sustainable for municipalities.

Thank you for allowing us to share our perspective on this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Rossi", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Finance Committee