



RHODE ISLAND
FEDERATION OF TEACHERS AND
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AFT
AFL - CIO

To: House Finance Committee
From: Jeremy Sencer, Field Representative
Date: April 28, 2026
Re: Pre-K Expansion
Testimony in Support of 2026-**H 7680** (Representative Donovan, et. al.)

On behalf of RIFTHP, I submit testimony in support of H-7680, legislation that strengthens early childhood education by expanding access to high-quality pre-kindergarten programs for three- and four-year-old children.

Access to early childhood education is one of the most effective ways to support student success and reduce achievement gaps. Many Rhode Island families still face limited access to affordable, high-quality pre-kindergarten opportunities, particularly for younger learners. Expanding access at earlier ages helps ensure students enter kindergarten ready to learn and succeed.

H-7680 clarifies and strengthens the state's commitment to early childhood education by explicitly including programs for three- and four-year-olds within the education funding framework. It also promotes coordination between the Department of Education and the Department of Human Services to better align resources and expand access to high-quality programs.

This is a practical step toward building a stronger early childhood system and supporting students and families across Rhode Island.

For these reasons, RIFTHP urges the Committee to support H-7680.

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