

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

April 27, 2026

Re: Testimony in Support of House bill 7681, titled "AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE EDUCATION EQUITY AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACT"

Dear Chair Abney and members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am Chris Kona from Richmond, in RI House District 34.


I support House bill 7681, titled "AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE EDUCATION EQUITY AND PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACT".

I support House bill 7681 because the costs for student transportation are one of the disproportionately large costs for regional school districts, and for the Chariho Regional School District. The Chariho Regional School District takes up 12% of the land area of Rhode Island – just below one-eighth of the land area of the whole state. While one in eight Rhode Island students don't attend Chariho, our Chariho students still have to travel over this distance in order to get to school. This means that the state funding formula, based on enrollment, does not adequately cover the costs for transporting students.

Every student in the Chariho Regional School District has an equal right to education. However, the costs for this are not proportional for every student. Students who live on back roads, on dirt roads, in every corner of the 128 square mile district must still make it to school every day and delivered back home. Bill 7681 is essential to being able to make that happen, to ensuring that each one of those students has an equal chance at a future regardless of where their parents live.

I urge you to vote in favor of House bill 7681.

V/r,



Chris Kona
3 Morning Road
Richmond, RI 02892
House District 34