



Testimony: H7581

SUPPORT for The Education Equity and Property Tax Relief Act

April 27th, 2026

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Eliza Sirpenski, and I am the Administrative Policy Lead at The Womxn Project, a Rhode Island-based nonprofit that frequently focuses on matters related to reproductive rights, LGBTQ+ rights, bodily freedom, and government transparency.

I am writing in **strong support** of H7581, The Education Equity and Property Tax Relief Act. The purpose of this bill is to fund civics education and gives students opportunities to learn about civics in more engaging and unique ways.

This funding is more crucial than ever right now given the education funding cuts happening at the federal level. We must prioritize funding education in times such as these, especially civics education, to ensure that students understand how civics-related issues impact their everyday lives, how to get involved, and how to use their voice. Not only that, but students should be adequately prepared to engage in civics and politics once they enter adulthood. Without the proper funding, this may not happen.

H7581 is particularly important to The Womxn Project because we believe that civics education is fundamental when it comes to securing bodily freedom and government transparency. People must understand the role civics plays when it comes to their rights and how civics can be used to secure and protect rights. Civics education in school is often the first step for many in this process. Students deserve to have access to this knowledge and should not be kept in the dark about how governmental processes and democracies operate.

Passing H7581 will show students that Rhode Island cares about their education and that civics is an important part of education. Please support H7581.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Eliza Sirpenski

Administrative Policy Lead, The Womxn Project