



April 28th, 2026

To: House Finance Committee
House Bill No. 7793 RELATING TO FEDERAL AID

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

The youth of Young Voices wish to express their strong support of H7793, which would provide free lunches and breakfast for all students in Rhode Island over the next three years. This bill will help minimize the cost to the state by maximizing our access to federal dollars.

The unfortunate truth is that many low-income families lack access to nutritious food sources at home. We know that young people going to school hungry negatively affects their academic performance, yet despite allegedly making education a priority for all Rhode Islanders, our lawmakers are failing to address one of the simplest and widespread causes for poor grades and attendance. When students are falling asleep in class because they haven't eaten since the day before, how can they be expected to learn? Too often, we have witnessed these issues addressed as disciplinary problems by teachers and administrators, rather than recognizing the cause underlying the behavior.

Access to food is a basic human right. We seek immediate action to ensure all youth have access to free school breakfast and lunch, that our options are healthy and culturally relevant, and that no Rhode Island student should have to spend their days in hunger.

We hope that you make the right decision and pass H7793, for the well-being of Rhode Island youth and the flourishing of all.

Thank you for your time and attention today.

Sincerely,

The Youth of Young Voices