

Dear members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Jaylin Vasquez, I am a 10th grader at Rhode Island Nursing Institute and a youth advocate at Young Voices, an afterschool program in Providence, RI. I am in strong support of H7793 which would provide free breakfasts and lunches for all students, minimizing the cost to the state and maximizing access to federal funds.

This bill is really important to me because a lot of families don't have enough money to pay for lunch/breakfast considering they have other bills to pay for. If students aren't able to pay for lunch/breakfast they won't get the nutrition they need to be able to have energy and the physical and mental health they need for school and to get their work done.

We need to pass this because if more students are hungry, the more students will struggle in school. Improving school lunches will boost academic performance by ensuring every single student has the proper fuel to learn.

This bill reduces stigma, eliminates meal debt, supports family budget, and guarantees that no student/child goes hungry on a school day.

Thank you sincerely for your time and consideration,

Jaylin Vasquez