

Good afternoon members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Sofia Cubillos Viasus, I am a 12th grader at Jacqueline M. Walsh School and a youth advocate at Young Voices, an afterschool program in Providence, RI. I am here today in support of H7793 which would establish a statewide “healthy school meals for all” and provide a universal school breakfast and lunch program in RI public schools.

This bill is really important to me because my parents were unable to give me lunch money at the start of my high school years. It was psychologically torturing to watch other people eat then go to class hungry and exhausted. The price of the food doesn't equal its quality. When the water fountain was out of service, I couldn't access fruits to stop feeling thirsty in class.

We need to pass this bill because I have met many students that barely have food at home and depend on what the school can offer. I have seen people falling asleep in class because they couldn't eat. Hunger sparked many fights during lunch because it's necessary for the brain to eat in order to be logical.

This bill is necessary for the wellbeing of students in RI, additionally with ensuring safer environments with less upset students. I urge you to pass H7793

Thank you for your time and attention today.

Sofia