

Dear members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Deborah Paul, I am a 10th grader at Classical High School and a youth at Young Voices, an afterschool program in Providence, RI. I am writing today in support of H8351 which would establish the Rhode Island Education Funding and Accountability Act. This would include a totally revised and revamped formula for funding all levels of public education in Rhode Island.

This bill is really important to me because I see the lack of funding and how much it impacts the things that we get to do at my school. Although many people don't consider fieldtrips and outside events to be important, they are highlights to our education and make schools a more enjoyable and diverse learning environment. Unfortunately, we constantly miss out on opportunities to grow more in our learning because there isn't enough funding for us to do so. Even when we do have special occasions, we have to buy our own food, and pay for entry. This makes it inaccessible to many students. More funding will make schools a more equitable place for everyone.

We need to pass this bill because I want my learning experience to be fun and enriching. I don't want to worry about the finances of my school, and how I am missing out on my education because of it.

Voting yes for this bill will not just make kids' time in high school more enjoyable but it will also make schools better overall. From renovating old buildings, fixing leaky ceilings, and ensuring that classrooms are safe, more funding ensures that we can focus on our education, and not our safety. Please help us improve our schools by passing bill H8351.

Thank you for your time,

Deborah Paul