

Dear members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Jamayra Hernandez, I am a 10th grader at Dr. Jorge Alvarez 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 would give support for special education, school maintenance, money for our CTE programs, school supplies and more programs.

This bill is really important to me because I'm in the health care CTE program. Knowing how impactful funding is to make sure that we all get access to the materials that we deserve, I constantly worry that I won't have what I need to learn all of the skills I need to have a successful career. Our classrooms lack support, because we are losing teachers left and right. Many of them quit because of lack of funding, they can't afford to continue buying materials for all of their students that should be covered by the schools. They have low pay, but also have to cover where the school lacks.

We need to pass this bill because it will help our education, make school a better and more enjoyable environment, and will give us more opportunities to thrive. Please help us make school better for all students by passing bill H8351.

Thank you for your time and attention today.

Jamayra Hernandez