

Dear members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Phoebe Gardea, 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 have first hand experience with the terrible maintenance in schools. At my middle school, there was a school leak that flooded the entire basement and first floor. There has also been water leaking from the roof at my high school and every time it rains, it leaks onto the floor. There have also been fires, roof falling, and gas leaks all in the span of a year. More funding is needed to fix all of these issues and ensure that we can focus on learning and not trying to stay safe in school.

We need to pass this bill because these are health hazards to my peers, teachers, and administrators. This is a major topic in my school and students are consistently complaining about the unkept conditions of our schools. It creates unsafe environments and limits our learning. With appropriate funding, we can see school be a place where we don't complain about the safety, but rather enjoy the opportunities given to us.

Please vote on bill H8351 in order to create a safe and well kept environment for students.

Thank you for your time.

Phoebe Gardea