

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

April 27, 2026

Re: Testimony in Support of House bill 8476, titled "RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF STATE EDUCATION AID TO THE TOWN OF RICHMOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$331,064"

Dear Chair Abney and members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am Chris Kona from Richmond, in RI House District 34.


I support House bill 8476, titled "RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF STATE EDUCATION AID TO THE TOWN OF RICHMOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$331,064".

I support House bill 8476, because it is critical funding to support the function of the town. The town is able to adjust to rising school costs by removing a police officer position, a truck driver position, reducing two employees to part time, and reducing cost of living increases below inflation levels. However, these stress critical employees who are essential to the function of the town.

Further, restoring the amount of state educational aid to Richmond to its level from last year provides better balancing for taxpayer funds across the town. Reduction of state aid means more of the school district funding comes from property taxes, which has a heavy impact on the retired population of Richmond who are on fixed incomes. Restoring state aid shifts the costs to working residents, like me, through income taxes. I have one student still in Chariho and one who is a graduate. With a steady income, though, I'm also in a better position to be able to help with the costs of the schools. While it is the responsibility of all Richmond residents to support their community schools, for the future of our town, this resolution helps me and those in my position to better do our share for the town.

I urge you to vote in favor of House bill 8476.

V/r,



Chris Kona
3 Morning Road
Richmond, RI 02892
House District 34