



RIEEA

Rhode Island Environmental
Education Association

50 Sims Avenue, Space 209
Providence, Rhode Island 02909
RIEEA.org

Jeanine Silversmith

On Behalf of the Rhode Island Environmental Education Association

In Support H-7458, Postsecondary Tuition Assistance for Shortage Teacher Fields

House Committee on Finance

Thursday, April 30, 2026

The Rhode Island Environmental Education Association (RIEEA) supports **H-7458**, and respectfully urges its passage. With a shortage of teachers, especially in secondary science classes, Rhode Island is at tremendous risk of graduating young people who are not able to engage in our growing blue and green economy.

It is often said that teaching is the profession on which all other professions depend. Secondary science teachers equip our emerging workforce with the skills and knowledge they need to be competitive; teachers also introduce them to a wide variety of careers. If we do not have science teachers, then the health and economic security of our state is in jeopardy.

The RIEEA membership includes over 400 individuals including educators, scientists, advocates, students, and parents, as well as over 70 organizations¹ who care deeply about Rhode Island's natural places, health, and environmental and economic stability. Pass **H-7458**, and address our science teacher shortage.

¹ <https://www.rieea.org/about-us/organizational-members/>