



April 30, 2026

The Honorable Marvin Abney
Chairman, House Committee on Finance
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support of H 8336, An Act Relating to Education – Rhode Island Hope Scholarship Pilot Program

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

As Co-Chairs of the Rhode Island College Alumni and Foundation Board, we write to express our strong support for making the Hope Scholarship at Rhode Island College a permanent program. Since its launch as a pilot, the Hope Scholarship has provided a critical pathway for Rhode Islanders to complete their bachelor's degrees, strengthening our state's workforce and expanding opportunity for students who might otherwise be unable to finish their education.

The early outcomes of the pilot program have demonstrated what many community leaders, educators, and students have long understood: when we remove financial barriers in the final years of college, we dramatically increase the likelihood that students will persist, graduate, and contribute to Rhode Island's economic and civic life. Many students who have benefited from the Hope Scholarship have shared that this support allowed them to reduce work hours, focus on their studies, and stay on track to graduate on time.

Rhode Island College plays a unique role in educating the state's future teachers, nurses, social workers, business leaders, and public servants. The Hope Scholarship strengthens that mission by ensuring that talented, hardworking students, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college, can complete their degrees without the burden of additional financial strain.

For these reasons, and in alignment with the Foundation's commitment to expanding access and supporting student success, we respectfully urge the General Assembly to transition the Hope Scholarship from a pilot to a permanent program. Doing so would affirm Rhode Island's long term investment in its people and its future.

Thank you for your leadership and for your continued commitment to higher education in our state.

Sincerely,

Alan Tenreiro '98
Co-Chair, Rhode Island College
Alumni & Foundation Board

Kevin San '12, MPAc '13
Co-Chair, Rhode Island College
Alumni & Foundation Board