

April 30, 2026

Re: Support of House Bill 8336, Rhode Island Hope Scholarship Pilot Program Act

Good afternoon,

My name is Victoria Adu-Gyamfi, and I am a graduate of the Rhode Island College Nursing Program. I am truly grateful for the Hope Scholarship and the role it has played in shaping both my education and my future.

I was born and raised in Rhode Island, spending most of my childhood in Pawtucket before moving to Providence when I began high school. I come from a low to middle income household in a family originally from Ghana, West Africa, where education has always been deeply valued. That foundation is what led me to pursue nursing and remain committed to completing my degree.

As a nursing student, I had to balance a rigorous academic and clinical schedule while also navigating the financial realities of higher education. The cost of tuition, transportation to clinical sites, and required materials created constant pressure. There were times when that financial stress made it difficult to fully focus, even in environments where full attention is critical.

The Hope Scholarship changed that for me. By covering the last two years of my tuition, it removed one of the biggest barriers I was facing. It gave me the ability to focus on my clinical training, stay consistent in my coursework, and complete my program without the constant weight of financial uncertainty. It allowed me to move from simply trying to manage each semester to truly investing in my growth as a future nurse.

Now, as a graduate preparing to take my NCLEX, I am stepping into this next chapter with confidence. The support I received through the Hope Scholarship has positioned me to transition into the workforce with a strong foundation and a clear sense of direction.

My plan is to begin working as a Registered Nurse here in Rhode Island and, within the next two to three years, return to Rhode Island College to pursue my goal of becoming a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. The Hope Scholarship has not only supported where I have been, but it has also made it possible for me to think more clearly about where I am going.

It has made a lasting impact on my life, and I am committed to using that opportunity to give back through my work and continued growth in the field of nursing.

Thank you.