



Max Bromberg  
35 Liberty Church Rd  
Exeter, RI 02822

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

As one with the fortune to benefit from a parental college fund, I both understand the incredible difference it makes and appreciate the impact of what so many of my cohort couldn't: capital gains. As I grew up through the 2000s and 2010s, I saw the impact of state cuts old and new as federal money for infrastructure investment was sunk into maintenance, teachers couldn't afford to stay, and my government was ever more beholden to those who could buy its bonds. I lived in Belgium and Germany for a time, and beheld societies of high taxes and high benefits, with public goods the foundation of social self-belief.

Wealth issues the commands of a market economy, and without taxing the wealthy, there is no chance my generation (I am 30) will continue to believe in democracy. Indeed, what does a democracy mean when bonds count more than ballots?

So please, give yourselves the funding you need to provide the services which can restore belief in government, and flex the muscle of taxation.

Your studied believer,  
Max Bromberg



Kaylynn Polley  
337 Cowesett Ave  
West Warwick, RI 02893  
401-924-2316

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

Working people need your support, and the services we depend on need funding.

My name is Kaylynn and I work for a public school district and my take home pay is about \$43,000 a year. This also happens to be about the average person's income in Rhode Island - so I'd say I'm a pretty good representation of your constituents. And to be clear... We're struggling!

Working people are living paycheck to paycheck. We spend half of our income each month on rent, and then the other half on bills and groceries. Meanwhile, the wealthy (who are built up by working people), have multiple homes and live in excess.

Federal funding is uncertain, but even with it, why not create revenue to make this state better? We could be a leading example in the country, by showing the importance of supporting its people.

Please support this bill.

Respectfully,  
Kaylynn Polley



Merrill Schmidt  
272 Smith St., Apt 1  
Cranston, RI 02905  
7206622819

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

My name is Merrill Schmidt, and I live in Cranston, RI. I am a member of Reclaim RI and the RI Working Families Party. I also work with high school students at a nonprofit organization in Providence. I'm writing in support of the Revenue for Rhode Islanders bill, which would create an additional tax rate 3% on taxable income over \$625,000.

I believe the Personal Income Tax bill is an important step towards addressing wealth/ income inequality as well as helping pay for critical services and resources in our state. With the federal funding being slashed, we need to find additional sources of revenue to balance the budget while ensuring that essential services in our state aren't cut. I think this bill is a very reasonable step to addressing the challenging financial situation in our state. I do not want to see my neighbors suffer needlessly from cuts to Medicaid, SNAP, or other benefits. I want to be able to send my son to pre-K and public school when he is old enough, and I do not want to see a complete disruption in the public education system. I want to know that state regulators can help ensure safe water, food, and products for our communities. I am very concerned about federal cuts to public infrastructure and services, but I believe that we can prevent some of the damage from the federal cuts by passing the Revenue for Rhode Islanders bill and looking for other ways to bolster the state's budget.

Respectfully,  
Merrill Schmidt



Navah Fuchs  
90 Serrel Sweet Rd  
Johnston, RI 02919  
561-703-6511

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

This is a no brainer - please pass this increase in taxes to help us pay for infrastructure and ensure that the burden isn't falling unduly on working class families. This is especially important with the market manipulation allowing people to buy the dip after Trump crashed the market.

I moved to RI in 2017 because I loved the great quality of life and value for money. Yet so many of the important things that brought me here and inspired me to set up a business here are under fire. Absolutely pass this bill. It is the only path forward to avoid the critical infrastructure cuts that would make many of us consider leaving RI for other states.

It's worth noting I did a poll and responses were overwhelming on the side of NOT leaving the state over a 3% tax increase.

Knowing the choice is cutting educational programming, Medicare and Medicaid, building projects, and other critical services or asking the wealthiest among us to pay their fair share, it's a no brainer to vote yes on this bill.

Please pass this and know RI fully supports it.

Respectfully,  
Navah Fuchs



Katie Weimer  
16 Academy Ave  
Providence, RI 02908

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

Costs are increasing, federal aid is decreasing, taxes need to increase to cover vital services. High income earners need to pay fair tax rates. Nothing more to it. Income inequality hurts everyone.

Respectfully,  
Katie Weimer



Georgine Edwards  
24 Saunders Road  
Saunderstown RI 02874

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

We need to raise taxes on the top one percent of RI earners to pay for needed services that the Trump administration is cutting. Our country got into this mess in the first place because of our inordinate, unjustified worship of rich people like Trump and Musk. They benefited from large inheritances and from government policies that helped them accumulate more--funded by OUR taxes which are higher than theirs! Contrary to a now-debunked belief, their wealth does NOT trickle down if we let them keep more of it. Instead they continue to manipulate the economy in their own favor, to the detriment of everyone else. Let's get back to a respectably low income disparity, nationwide and statewide. TAX THE RICH!

Respectfully,  
Georgine Edwards



Eilish Wilder  
59 Ivan Street North Providence  
4015594533

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

Public services serve all. We, the working people, deserve to have beautiful parks, comprehensive healthcare, reliable infrastructure, and well-funded schools. The 1% have more than enough of what they need and should gladly give back to the people who do the hard labor of keeping this state running. Rhode Island wouldn't be able to function without us and we are owed state of the art public services.

Respectfully,  
Eilish Wilder



Hannah Tremblay  
54 Wyndham Ave  
Providence, RI 02908  
978-460-1927

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

The unfolding cuts to federal funding will have deep, harmful impacts on my community in Rhode Island. Unless our state addresses this gap, we face cuts to valuable public services like medicaid, social security, education, our public infrastructure and many other areas. I've been on Medicaid before and know how crucial it is to have access to this type of healthcare when your work doesn't provide any; my partner relies on RIPTA for transportation around Providence and we hope to send our children to Providence's public schools someday.

Without this bill, Rhode Islanders like us will lose these public services. Now is the time to reconsider our state's regressive tax policy. Making the top 1% of earners pay their fair share of taxes would be an important source of revenue as federal funding disappears. Please commit to serving the 99% of Rhode Islanders who will be most impacted by these cuts by increasing the taxes of the 1%. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Hannah Tremblay



Hannah Tremblay  
54 Wyndham Ave.  
Providence, RI 02908  
978-460-1927

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

This would provide funding for valuable public programs like Medicaid, which will otherwise be decimated by the looming federal funding cuts. I've experienced firsthand the importance of Medicaid when I worked as a baker for a cafe that didn't provide health insurance; during this period I was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease and was able to access healthcare through Medicaid – had it not been for that option, my condition would have gone undiagnosed and untreated. Now I'm off Medicaid, but only because I was lucky enough to find a job that provides healthcare – thousands of Rhode Islanders aren't in this fortunate position. I fear if I ever lose this healthcare or my job, I won't be able to access essential services and medication needed to treat my chronic health condition.

I strongly support requiring the top 1% of highest earners in Rhode Island pay their fair share to help fund the critical programs our families and my community relies on, like Medicaid. I hope Rhode Island lawmakers will side with working people this year by guaranteeing the highest earners do their part to help protect families from Trump and Musk's hostile cuts, without putting the burden onto working people or small businesses.

Respectfully,  
Hannah Tremblay



Brian Monteverd  
173 Lexington Ave  
Providence RI 02907  
617-877-5691

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

As someone working part-time and relying on Medicaid, I see firsthand how rising costs, driven by federal tax policies that favor the ultra-rich, are making it harder for ordinary people to afford basic needs. I'm deeply concerned about the potential for federal cuts to programs like Medicaid in order to fund tax breaks for billionaires. This bill would help our state push back against those harmful federal choices by raising state revenue in a fair and sustainable way.

Throughout my life, I've depended on public services like Medicaid, public schools, and infrastructure like roads and parks. These services are essential, not just for me, but for the health and well-being of our entire community. By increasing taxes on the top 1%—those most able to afford it—we can generate \$190 million in new revenue that would protect and improve these vital services. With local school budgets already straining our towns and pushing up property taxes, we need this new funding to relieve that pressure and ensure quality education for all Rhode Islanders.

Raising taxes on the wealthiest is not about punishing success; it's about ensuring everyone contributes fairly. Right now, everyday Rhode Islanders are being asked to shoulder more while the wealthiest pay less, proportionally. That's not sustainable, and it's not right.

Let's ensure Rhode Island can meet today's challenges with strong public services, equitable tax policy, and a commitment to the well-being of every resident—not just the wealthiest few.

Respectfully,  
Brian Monteverd



Siraj Sindhu  
61 Chapin Ave,  
Providence, RI 02909  
315-486-8855

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

I've lived in Providence for the past 8 years, and in our current apartment in the West End for 3 years. My wife and I love it here, and we're hoping to have a child here in Rhode Island in the next year or two. We are nervous about making the decision to settle down and raise a family here, though, because RI's public finances raise worrisome questions about the state's ability to provide the basic and essential services we need.

Will our family be able to have access to high-quality childcare? We look at other parts of the country that offer universal childcare or universal pre-K, and we worry that it may not be a sound decision to stay in Rhode Island, because the state doesn't seem able to provide us with that same level of public service. New Mexico offers comprehensive and universal childcare to all kids across the state starting at 6 weeks of age. Why can't Rhode Island do the same? Vermont offers universal pre-K to 4 year-olds. Cities like San Antonio and Boston offer universal pre-K for 3 and 4 year-olds. Why can't Rhode Island offer these same things?

Will our child be able to get a high-quality public education? We look at cities and states all over the country and see school systems that truly seem to be thriving. On the other hand, Providence's school system is in rough shape. Many of the school buildings are in states of disrepair that reveal inadequate resourcing and funding. We worry if it makes sense to raise a child here, given the poor state of the public schools.

And there are many more questions. Will we be able to take a fast and convenient bus to get to work, or to take our kid to the beach, or to go out for dinner? Will we be able to get the obstetric and other healthcare that we need at high-quality hospitals? Will the roads and bridges be in good shape, or will they continue crumbling and causing danger, havoc, and embarrassment all over the state?

Rhode Island is rich. Incredibly rich. We see it when we drive to the east side of Providence. We see it when we visit parts of Cranston and Warwick. And we see it in the summers when we visit Bristol, Tiverton, and Newport. And yet, in such a wealthy state, we have bridges that are collapsing and schools that are failing.

Why? Because those with the highest incomes aren't paying their fair share. We have a broken and lopsided tax system that allows those with the highest incomes to pay smaller shares of their incomes in state and local taxes than



those in any other tax bracket do. Meanwhile, households like ours that make very modest amounts of income are paying relatively high amounts in state and local taxes. This status quo is setting our state up for financial failure, and is pushing young workers like me away.

Other jurisdictions have passed similar laws. Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, California, and many other jurisdictions have enacted more progressive taxation laws. They've been wildly successful. They raise hundreds of millions if not billions in annual state revenue and they have basically no drawbacks. We should do the same.

I want to stay in RI and raise a family here. I would ask that the legislature pass all four of these bills so that our state can fund basic and essential state functions for years and generations to come.

Respectfully,  
Siraj Sindhu



Hillary Rettig  
99 Water Street #416

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

I support this tax for reasons of justice and fairness, but also because taxes fund public facilities and public service. Having the top 1% pay less than the middle class is ridiculous, and harms us all. The wealthy won't even feel the impact of these taxes on their lives, while the rest of us would benefit enormously from the added state revenue.

Respectfully,  
Hillary Rettig



Kate Heemsoth  
Greenwich Ave  
Warwick, RI 02886

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

Respectfully,  
Kate Heemsoth



Zoe Nadig  
64 Chapin Ave  
Providence RI 02909  
413-329-2076

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

*My name is Zoe and I live in Providence Rhode Island. I am writing in support of the legislation to raise taxes on the top 1% of Rhode Islanders.*

*Rhode Island is in dire need of additional revenue streams, particularly in this time of unprecedented federal funding cuts, to invest in critical infrastructure such bridges, roads, and public transportation. As a Providence resident I am painfully aware of what happens when this infrastructure is not updated and maintained - after the Washington Bridge was closed my commute increased by 20-30 minutes each way. Even more recently, parts of a bridge I frequently take fell onto a rail line, disrupting traffic for Rhode Islanders as well as Amtrak passengers and bringing to light yet again how unstable and unsafe much of our critical infrastructure is. It seems it is only a matter of time until someone is seriously hurt.*

*Just over the border in Massachusetts the Fair Share tax has allowed for massive, and much needed, increases in funding for education at all levels as well as infrastructure and transportation. Meanwhile, the number of high earners living in the state has increased dramatically.*

*Similar legislation in Rhode Island will put our state in a much better position to weather increasing economic uncertainty and improve safety and quality of life for all Rhode Islanders - no matter their tax bracket. "*

Thanks for all your good work and best of luck this legislative season!



Ryan Miech  
8 Red Maple Road  
Coventry RI 02816  
401-498-5326

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

As a lifelong Rhode Islander, I consistently use the public services of the state. Whether it be driving over the Newport bridge to get to work, where I help individuals supported by Medicaid, or making use of libraries and parks, I have witnessed how the well-being of Rhode Islanders is tied to the well-being of our public services. That is why it is so disturbing to hear about funding cuts proposed by the Trump administration. It will most likely cost me my job, the people I take care of's health and affect countless other Rhode Islanders.

What can we do to prevent this extreme act on our local institutions and services? By shoring up local funding via a tax on the 1%. The median household income of RI is 72k. To be in the top percentile, you have to make over a half a million dollars. That is a large wealth gap. The bulk of these individuals do not reside full time in the ocean state but come here for vacation. An increased tax on them would not be felt in their loss of wealth, would not trigger a wealth flight (they choose to reside here) and most importantly would greatly bolster the revenue of available funds for public services.

Respectfully,  
Ryan Miech



Emily Conklin  
7 Guinn CT  
Newport RI 02840  
860-818-2370

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

At a time where federal funding is being slashed across the board, it's even more important for RI to find ways to be self-sufficient. I live in Newport and, though many may think of us as a home to the wealthy as our gilded age mansions imply, we rely on federal support and grants to support our communities. We are a community where a high proportion of our children are on free and reduced lunch at schools; where we have a large and growing unhoused population many of whom go unsheltered in all seasons; where our housing authority supports the rent of many families through federal funding sources that are being frozen; where our roads and homes flood with increasing frequency due to storms intensifying from climate change; where we bear the mixed blessing of being a tourist destination without being able to sustain the needs of our year round residents. Unfortunately, the main resource needed to address these issues is money. We have an abundance of community care and drive. We do not have an abundance of funding.

For too long in our state and country, those with the least have held the biggest burden. Our tax system is fundamentally unfair, allowing the rich to become ever richer while the poor struggle more and more. Most people will be completely unaffected by this tax, as will most businesses. I would venture to say that those who will be subjected to the tax will not see much difference in their lifestyle. But for the greater good, this tax could make a world of difference. It could mean the difference between funding public services and seeing drastic cuts; the difference between enduring crumbling infrastructure and making positive changes for our safety; the difference between people being able to heat and cool their homes or having to move. I could go on and on. This tax is well past due and a no brainer for RI.

Respectfully,  
Emily Conklin



Madison Dankocsik  
700 Curtis Corner Rd,  
South Kingstown, RI 02879  
314-448-2702

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

I think everyone should have the opportunity to achieve their educational goals, feed their families, and have the health care they need. If lower income populations have to pay proportional taxes to the country why wouldn't the 1%? Please just tax proportionally. It doesn't make sense to create a larger gap and subsequent dichotomy within our little state.

Respectfully,  
Madison Dankocsik



Patrick Quinn  
264 Mendon Ave  
Pawtucket Ri 02860  
410-978-8815

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

I work full time and struggle to make ends meet already. I don't understand how anyone could argue against the overly rich paying their fair share while the RI legislature squeezes regular working class people for every cent we have, fails us so consistently, and constantly cuts necessary programs like RIPTA.

Respectfully,  
Patrick Quinn



Jennifer Recinos  
55 Bainbridge Ave, Providence, RI 02909

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

As a first-generation college student who grew up in a low-income family in Olneyville—one of the poorest neighborhoods in Providence—I know firsthand the transformative power of public programs like Medicaid, SNAP, Head Start, and RIPTA. These weren't just safety nets—they were essential resources that allowed me to pursue my education, access healthcare, and participate fully in my community. They played a critical role in my early development and gave me the foundation I needed to succeed.

Today, my siblings and family still rely on RIPTA to get around. As a young person, I depended on public transit to access free after-school programs, attend part-time jobs to help support my family, and connect to opportunities across the city. Without these programs, my path—and the path of so many others in communities like mine—would have looked very different.

Through my work with ONE|NB and the Central Providence Opportunities Resident Advisory Council, I've seen how these public investments continue to uplift residents and strengthen neighborhoods. Initiatives like the Central Providence Roadmap are already working to address systemic inequities and promote long-term health and economic stability. But imagine how devastating it would be for historically underserved communities—like those in Central Providence and Olneyville—to face even deeper cuts to public resources that we know are essential. Cuts like these only widen the already stark disparities in health, education, and opportunity.

That's why it's crucial that the top 1% pay their fair share in taxes. Working families and small businesses should not have to bear the burden created by tax cuts for the wealthy or budget shortfalls. These public programs are investments—not costs—and they benefit all of us by creating a more just, healthy, and thriving Rhode Island.

Our legislators must support a fairer tax system—one rooted in shared responsibility—so that we can protect the critical programs that so many rely on. When we prioritize equity and invest in our people, we build a stronger future for every Rhode Islander.

Thank you for taking the time to consider what's truly at stake for our communities.

Respectfully,  
Jennifer Recinos



Malcolm Sushchuk  
50 Ring Street, Providence, RI 02909  
978-621-1639

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend). The public programs like Medicaid, SNAP, and HeadStart and our public transportation make a HUGE difference in the lives of those utilizing them. We are talking about people being able to access basic human needs, food, medical care, and jobs. We need to keep these programs operating and funded for the benefit of our entire society during this federal political climate where such funding is at a real risk.

It is abundantly clear that by caring for the basic needs of a diversity of earners in our communities, we ensure stronger and healthier communities, and ones that have a chance to thrive. And there is significant research that indicates this will ultimately cost us less in the long run. In our capitalist system, the way high earners are already afforded the immense potential to continue to accumulate wealth is beyond evident. Challenge the notion that those earning above \$625k should not be held at a significantly higher tax for the betterment of our collective wellbeing.

Additionally, numerous national reports show that in several states that have higher taxes on the wealthy, millionaires stay and continue to pay their fair share in taxes – in fact, the number of millionaires and their wealth in these states has expanded, debunking the ‘wealth flight’ myth.

Two years into Massachusetts’ millionaires’ tax and a higher tax rate on \$250,000 in capital gains in Washington state shows that the millionaire class grew by 38.6 percent in Massachusetts and 46.9 percent in Washington, respectively. Their wealth grew by more than \$580 billion in current dollars in Massachusetts and \$748 billion in Washington state between 2022 and 2024.

A fairer tax system works in other states, and it will work in Rhode Island. Massachusetts is using the \$2.4 billion they made in the first year of a similar tax to fund their schools, transit systems, repair their roads and bridges across the state, and more. Maryland fixed their budget crisis, fully funded their public schools, protected Medicaid and protected working people from tax hikes.

I strongly support requiring the top 1% of highest earners in Rhode Island pay their fair share to help fund the critical programs our families and my community relies on. I hope Rhode Island lawmakers will side with working people this year by guaranteeing the highest earners do their part to help protect families from Trump and Musk’s hostile cuts, without putting the burden onto working people or small businesses.

Respectfully,



Malcolm Sushchuk



Elyse Trinh  
78 Hudson Street  
Providence, RI 02909

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

I am a physician working in community health. I see up close—I feel INTIMATELY—how critical our safety net programs like Medicaid and SNAP are. It would be atrocious to let these programs lapse or weaken due to underfunding. It will lead to so much suffering.

Also here's a perspective you probably don't hear enough: I'd be happy to pay higher taxes, knowing they go to a healthier community. I want to raise my kid in a community that is thriving.

I'm not in the income bracket affected by this bill but relative to my community, I am high-income, as a physician married to another physician. Tax us. Tax people richer than us. Rhode Island can do it. We are a progressive state and with the right messaging we can all do our part to invest in our community.

Respectfully,  
Elyse Trinh



Cameron Thibeault  
96 E Manning St  
401-626-0128

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

Essentially all social services in Rhode Island are currently under threat by the federal government. Cuts to Medicaid will kick thousands of Rhode Islanders off of their health insurance and do untold damage to the already weak hospital networks we all rely on. Cuts to education will hurt many public schools that are already struggling in Rhode Island, some of them serving the poorest children in our state. In the face of what will most likely be a federal budget that again slashes taxes for the absolute wealthiest of our society, it is not only irresponsible to not increase taxes on those that have been so favored by this administration, it is willfully allowing the suffering and immiseration that is the goal of Donald Trump and the Republican party. Rhode Island is a great state that is already struggling in many aspects, and is in desperate need of investments into housing and infrastructure, as well as ensuring the safety, health, and freedom to all of its residents through a variety of social and community programs. This goal cannot be only achievable at the whim of an increasingly ineffective federal government, or we will all suffer for it.

Respectfully,  
Cameron Thibeault



Kristina Brown  
217 Armington St,  
Cranston RI, 02905  
401-396-6306

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

At a time when Rhode Island has a multi-million dollar budget deficit due to the end of COVID-19 relief dollars and facing funding uncertainty from proposed cuts to essential social services at the federal level, we need a new source of local revenue to ensure that Rhode Island survives the economic chaos ahead of us. It is time to take bold and evidence-based steps to lead our state through the next three years. These bills will create the necessary funding for financial security with an annual increase in revenue that is desperately needed to make sure Rhode Islander's have access to healthcare, education, affordable housing, and reliable transportation. It is more important than ever to take action to support Rhode Island's working families, children, seniors, and ensure a baseline quality of life through sustainable funding for public services.

As a single mother of two young Rhode Islanders that attend public school, I am deeply concerned about the proposed federal cuts to education. I live in Cranston and like many other municipalities across the state, our City Council is negotiating the city budget which needs more investment for our schools. This will cause a raise in our taxes. Revenue for our schools is critically important to the future of our state, but the persistent increases in costs of living to everyday working families is reaching a breaking point for many of my neighbors. In a household like mine, with every increase in costs of living, I need to adjust my budget to make sure I can take care of my children. Food costs more, clothing, transportation, healthcare, and housing - my home owners insurance just doubled - we need a contingency plan at the state level to ensure that there is enough funding to support working Rhode Islanders. I pay my fair share in taxes to support these public services, my wealthy neighbors should too.

Respectfully,  
Kristina Brown



Joshua Pierce  
6 Goulding St,  
Providence, RI 02906  
860-299-6758

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

This bill is not just a matter of fiscal policy; it is a reflection of our values as a community and a commitment to ensuring that every Rhode Islander has access to the essential services they need to thrive.

Requiring the top 1% to pay their fair share is not just about raising revenue; it is about investing in our community and ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to succeed. The additional funding from this bill will help support our schools, healthcare systems, and infrastructure, creating a stronger, more resilient Rhode Island for all of us. It is a step toward a more equitable society where working people and small businesses are not left to fill the gaps created by tax cuts for the wealthy.

By taxing the wealthiest among us, we can protect the programs that are vital to our community and ensure that Rhode Island remains a place where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. Let us not abandon our values in the face of adversity; instead, let us stand together and invest in the future of our state.

Respectfully,  
Joshua Pierce



Donald Baier  
222 8th Street  
Providence, RI 02906

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

As a retired resident of Providence, my wife and I rely on Social Security payments, a pension and IRA investments. We pay thousands of dollars in taxes to government in Rhode Island—property tax, income tax, sales tax, license fees, etc. We are happy to pay these taxes as they are the price of living in a civilized society.

But we have grown weary of hearing, year after year, complaints from the spokesmen for the most affluent, richest people in our state, that they cannot pay their fair share of this obligation. Because then they and others like them would flee the state and Rhode Island would be known as a bad place to do business.

Setting aside for a moment that this argument is supported by no evidence whatsoever, what does it say about the morality and respect for a democratic society that it makes a beggar-thy-neighbor race to the bottom its founding piece of wisdom?

The modest 3% surcharge on the current tax rate of 5.99% would be paid only by a few thousand tax filers, the top 1% making over \$640,000 a year. Yet it would supply Rhode Island government \$650 million a year to help close the gap in funding for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

But just as important as the money is the moral message it sends.

At a time when the Trump administration has taken a chainsaw to the federal government, slashing payments and services, all in the interest of furthering a huge tax cut for the wealthiest Americans, it is time to step up to support our schools and students, our health care providers, and working families who don't make enough to get by. And yes, those of us who are tired of paying extra so the 1% can enjoy fatter wallets. Please support this vital legislation.

Donald Baier  
8th St  
Providence 02906



Cameron Thibeault  
96 E Manning St  
401-626-0128

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

I think it is important to pass the bills that are part of the Fair Share Campaign because I believe that it is what is necessary not just to fill in the gaps in the budget left by the federal government, but to actually begin the much needed work of improving this state and the lives of the people in it. Crumbling infrastructure and yearly cuts to RIPTA combine in a way that makes the day to day lives for many Rhode Islanders much more difficult than they need to be, and this can be fixed by ensuring that the wealthiest in this state pay their fair share, especially after being given such egregious handouts on working people's dime.

On a personal level, the continued funding of many of these programs is important to me. AI lost my job at the very beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the ability to get affordable health insurance through the state's Medicaid expansion was a vital resource during a global health emergency. It is something that I believe all should be entitled to, and makes us healthier and safer not just as individuals, but as a community. It is for this reason that I support the Fair Share Campaign.

Respectfully,  
Cameron Thibeault



Naoko Shibusawa  
90 Sefton Street  
Cranston, RI 02905

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

Every Rhode Islander I know supports the Fair Share Campaign. With more public funding of our schools, homeowners like me would see our value of our properties rise. Universal daycare would help working families so that they can accumulate savings to become homeowners and be more financially secure overall. And more money in people's pockets means greater ability to support local businesses. We would have better ability to care for the neediest of us. We could improve our roads; make sure snow is plowed; and keep our environment cleaner with the expansion (not contraction) of RIPTA. Do we want to see the quality of life in Rhode Island continue to decline? Or do we want to see prosperity and well-being spread throughout our state?

History shows us--and I'm a history prof--that trickle-down, supply-side economics do not work. It takes active intervention of the government who supposedly works for all of us to take action to narrow the wealth gap. Bring back the hope of a middle-class society in which we can expect the next generation to do as well as or better than we elders have done.

Sincerely,  
Naoko Shibusawa



Jess Bucher  
79 Albert Ave, Cranston, RI 02905

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

Why do you use your elected powers to perpetuate feudalism and call it democracy? Did you know that when asked "Which doctor should I go to?" in Rhode Island people tend to respond "Go to Mass Gen." or "Go to Boston."? A man whose fourteen year old daughter was experiencing severe abdominal pain was told by RI doctors that she was just getting her period and overreacting and access to diagnostic care was withheld because Blue Cross and United insurance companies profit from withholding preventative care. After months of fighting with RI health care to protect his child this man finally took his child to Mass Gen and within a month she was diagnosed with Crohn's disease. Another woman was experiencing lower chest and upper GI symptoms and was told by multiple RI doctors that it was all in her head. She went to Mass Gen and found out that she had MALS and was treated within three months. Another woman had similar difficult to explain pain and after years of being told by RI doctors that she was making it up went to Boston and was diagnosed with cancer that by that point was untreatable. If any one of the RI health care workers that withheld care from her had been willing to believe her pain she would still be alive. Or how about the countless women of color who are repeatedly denied pain relief or diagnostic care because Brown University Health and Care New England intentionally foster racism and misogyny in their doctors and nurses? Our healthcare system in this state is based on bigoted exploitation and financial cannibalism. Our hospitals are overflowing because they are treated as for-profit businesses and sick people are just seen as a means to get a third house or a fourth boat. Good healthcare workers are burning out because they do not receive the support and resources that should be going into our healthcare system but are instead lining the pockets of insurance CEOs and lobbyists. How is it that the same people that are withholding care from RI communities are so wealthy that they pay less than the rest of us in taxes? How is it that the mayor of Providence is able to blatantly vote to block affordable housing because his real estate tycoon husband stands to profit more from the model of feudalism that currently exists? How is it that we pay taxes to a system that is supposed to provide education and health care and housing and functional roads and functional waste management systems and yet none of these services are provided for us. RI roads are a national joke. Why do you not invest in public transportation? How many of you profit from the destruction of our environment as money is funneled into highways and parking lots and billboards that we don't need or want? We have to fight gate keeper after pay wall after financial cannibal to have access to safe and clean food and water or affordable health care or childcare or housing. A tiny uptick in taxes for these financial cannibals and vampires would pay for everything. Why do you repeatedly use your elected power to strip us of our rights? Why should the rest of us pay taxes at all when it only funds a system that takes advantage of us at every turn? I ask again: why do you continue to perpetuate feudalism and call it democracy?

Respectfully,



Jess Bucher



Elizabeth Brett  
76 E. Main Road  
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

Most of this comes down to basic fairness. Why should people making the least amount of money pay the most in taxes? That seems ludicrous. This world seems to be upside down at the moment. Cutting taxes for billionaires, cutting SNAP benefits, cutting Medicaid, all are ridiculous propositions. First off, billionaires do not need to pay any less in taxes, as they pay very little now. It's just fundamentally wrong. The more you make, the more it makes sense to pay a little more. SNAP recipients get very little in benefits as it is; cutting their benefits, making work a requirement, is just stupid. Children and the poor should be protected. We should be helping those with less. It should be obvious. Greed is out of control in this country and empathy is lacking far too much. When you can tax the rich a small percentage, the amazing things that can be done with the money should be a no-brainer. Homelessness is out of control; hunger is out of control; healthcare is out of control. All of these things can be moderated with a small tax on the rich, which would not hurt them one bit, as much as they whine and complain. Expecting the rich to contribute is expecting too much obviously, as they hoard their riches and refuse to help in any productive way. The minimum wage should be brought way up. All the social services should be buffered by way of a tax on the rich. It's time to bring balance back to this nation. Let's stop being Goofus and start being Gallant!

Respectfully,  
Elizabeth Brett



Holly Fisher  
4 Pond Ave  
Newport, RI 02840

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

This letter is in support of the Fair Share Campaign! As a self-employed, small business owner, I'm currently paying 30% of my income on taxes, both income and social security. With my health insurance premium surpassing my mortgage payment this year, my current budget is unsustainable. While I am not a recipient of SNAP, Medicaid or HeadStart, I know the value of these programs and that the folks using them can better contribute to our community when they are safe and cared for. Repairs to schools, roads, bridges and public transport elevates the quality of life for all of us in RI. Corporations and wealthy Rhode Islanders should pay their fair share!

Respectfully,  
Holly Fisher



Diane Josefowicz  
141 Prospect St.  
Providence, RI 02906

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

I am grateful for our public goods — our schools, our roads, our parks and waterways, and so much more — and I would be glad if they were not only sustained but improved. These public goods are available to all but they do cost us all something, as they should. Paying for them should not be an unequal or unreasonable burden for any Rhode Islander. This bill would right the balance, making our public goods more secure as well as easier to enjoy, knowing they are not coming on the backs of those who are already struggling.

Respectfully,  
Diane Josefowicz



John Danehy  
10 Merrick St.  
Rumford, RI 02916

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

Since the 1980's the tax burden borne by the rich has fallen, as their incomes have soared. Meanwhile the tax burden borne by the middle class has risen while our incomes have stagnated or fallen. It's time to restore fairness. The wealthy benefit from our system but don't share the responsibilities of maintaining it. Please support the Fair Share bills 2238, 2361, and 3154.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
John Danehy, Rumford, RI



Aimee McDermott  
67 Bayside Ave  
Warwick RI 02888

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

I work with many people in their 20s and early 30s. I've seen how the cost of living is limiting the potential of our younger cohort. Wages have not kept up with the price of housing, utilities and healthcare. These younger people are employed full-time with jobs requiring a college education, yet they still are facing a huge problem with affordability. Our infrastructure is falling apart, and they wonder where their tax money is going. They are contributing to the tax base right now, and if Rhode Island doesn't change its approach to revenue generation, they are going to lose this tax base to other states.

It's time to ask more of our wealthiest fellow citizens, plain and simple.

Respectfully,  
Aimee McDermott



Barbara Costello

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

Our schools are failing the kids who need our help the most. Test scores are abysmal, especially in certain school districts. This is part of why we've seen persistently high rates of poverty in this wealthy, developed, prosperous country. Ask the super wealthy to pay their fair share and pay back what this country has done for them by help those less fortunate.

Respectfully,  
Barbara Costello



Judith Stokes  
7 Field Lane  
Barrington, RI 02806

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

At my age(76), seeing Americans' civil rights slipping away leaves me with little hope of ever seeing a better—no, little hope of ever seeing a decent future in our country.. The only silver lining to my very dark personal cloud is being a Rhode Islander. Recent progress Rhode Island has made in preserving the rights of our citizens is heartening. My public library was very important to me when I was a child; when I grew up I became a librarian, and worked in an often underfunded state institution for forty years. I like way the Fair Share bills work together because they will not only increase state revenue, some of which will benefit libraries, but will also allow me personally to contribute, in a small way. Forty years of a rather small salary led to a comfortable retirement income, including some unearned and untaxed (so far) income. Back when I was a child, income tax was progressive, and my father taught me that when we had a good year, we should be happy to share a bit of our good fortune with our community. I will be happy if the Fair Share bills pass.

Respectfully,  
Judith Stokes



Roger Boudreau

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

A system that allows such great income inequality requires a contribution from those most advantaged by that system.

Respectfully,  
Roger Boudreau



Hannah Tremblay  
54 Wyndham Ave  
Providence, RI 02908  
978-460-1927

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

I moved to Rhode Island two years ago and put down more permanent roots in the Ocean State this year by buying a house with my partner. I'm very committed to seeing my new home state flourish but am deeply concerned by where we're headed right now. From failing infrastructure to struggling public transportation to an underfunded education system, it's clear that Rhode Island is in desperate need of new revenue and that the status quo is failing all of its citizens. I want to keep calling Rhode Island home, but am worried that it will lack things like well functioning healthcare and public education systems that a young family needs to flourish.

These Fair Share Campaign proposals just make sense; they tax the highest earners at the same rate that lower earners are taxed. Better funding our schools, healthcare system and infrastructure will serve all of Rhode Island's citizens, regardless of their income bracket, because when these systems work well, we all do better.

I urge you, for the sake of people like me who are trying to put down roots and build a future in Rhode Island, to support the Fair Share Campaign bills. Thank you.

Respectfully,  
Hannah Tremblay



Matthew Ricci

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

I believe that those who have benefited most from our society should contribute towards its ongoing success through taxes that go towards making healthcare, housing, public infrastructure, food access, and a healthy biodiverse environment as robust and resilient as possible. This will benefit not just the most vulnerable members of our community, but will increase to overall health of our society, including those who pay slightly more in taxes.

Respectfully,  
Matthew Ricci



Miranda Cummings  
116 N Bend St  
Pawtucket, RI 02860

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

As a school social worker and lifelong Rhode Island resident, I see the gaps in service provisions due to inadequate funding on a daily basis. All Rlers deserve access to quality healthcare, education, infrastructure, and food. Lack of access to healthcare and good transportation negatively impact my family and friends. People in the 1% can afford the highest cut of their incomes to be taxed at a higher percent. It costs too much to be working class and poor in this state, when life does not have to be this way. Our neighbors in MA implemented a billionaire tax, and they generated a lot of revenue to reinvest in the state. RI should see that success as an indication that we can and should invest in our state.

Respectfully,  
Miranda Cummings



Karen Johnson-Nieuwendijk  
40 Walker St  
Pawtucket, RI 02860

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

I am writing in support of the Fair Share Bill. I feel that because of the increased expenses on Health Care, fuel, and other needed programs that the bill should not be foisted on those who regularly pay taxes and cannot afford to have their taxes rise in order to fund these programs. The 1% that have the highest incomes should not be excused from paying their fair share of RI's expenses. Health care is facing unsurmountable costs right now with the collapse of the subsidies for the ACA making many Rhode Islanders unable to afford insurance. These people cannot afford a private primary care so end up in publicly funded clinics and hospital ER's putting a strain on all the health care services in this state. Taxes shouldn't rise for those most unable to afford it. Pass this measure to ensure that everyone regardless of income pays their fair share.

Thank you.

Respectfully,  
Karen Johnson-Nieuwendijk



Errol Danehy  
10 Merrick St  
Rumford, RI 02916

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

My name is Errol Danehy, and I'm a lifelong resident of East Providence. I support bills 2238, 2361, and 3154, because they are commonsense legislation that will balance our budget and ensure our state's future.

At this time in history, America faces greater wealth inequality than during the Gilded Age. The top 1% has more wealth than the bottom 90% of the country. To repeat, 1% of Americans have more total wealth than 90% of Americans combined. (Source: [www.federalreserve.gov/releases/z1/dataviz/dfa/distribute/chart](http://www.federalreserve.gov/releases/z1/dataviz/dfa/distribute/chart))

Our state budget is stretched thin, and average Rhode Islanders have no money left to give. Housing and utilities cost more than ever. Food and transportation costs keep rising. The system is collapsing, but it can be repaired if the wealthy pay their fair share.

I have long benefited from this state's public goods. I went through the East Providence school system, where I had some incredible teachers that left a permanent mark on me. I often use the library to watch movies and read books that culturally enrich my life. Finally, my wife or I useRIPTA almost daily to help us get to or from work. Without these services, we would be poorer—both financially and spiritually—and would likely fall out of the middle class.

So why do I say this legislation is common sense? Because if the government needs money to function, which it does, it should go find that money where it is—the pockets of the wealthy—rather than scrape the already-bare pockets of the working class.

Respectfully,  
Errol Danehy



Carol Shea

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

The top 1% has been given a break in taxes for almost 10 years now. The tax rate used to be the high 20s just 10 years ago to my knowledge. We need that money for critical programs like new schools, repairs on schools, school lunches, keeping my people on SNAP benefits & stop increasing homeowners taxes then our rents won't keep going so high. These are owners of yes private homes but also homes with two, three and four floors. That's one of the reasons why rents keep going up!!! I'm sure there's more I could think of but this is a spur of the moment thing and it's the last minute so this is the best I got right now. Please vote the right way, thank you for your time.

Respectfully,  
Carol Shea



Adam Gutta  
496 Morris Ave  
Providence, RI 02906

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

I am writing in support of the Fair Share Bills because the state needs additional revenue to maintain infrastructure and services that the state's residents rely on. The people who choose to live in Rhode Island all benefit from each other's ability to get to work, get medical care, buy food for their kids, and feel secure. The people who will be paying for this tax increase are currently living comfortable lives and will continue to live comfortable lives if these bills are put into effect. But the knock-on effect of cutting programs are significant. Hungry kids don't do well in school and will be set back in their potential as future employees. Losing access to RIPTA or longer commutes to/from work because of reduced routes means less time with children, negatively impacting their development and their potential as future employees. Rhode Island needs the best value from ALL of its residents to thrive and compete with neighbors and cutting program funding is only going to hinder our competitiveness against MA and CT. Government spending is proven to be a good bet for ROI. I am writing to urge you to enact the Fair Share Bills so that we can invest in our neighbors and grow as a state.

Respectfully,  
Adam Gutta



Catherine Katzberg  
175 Hatfield St  
Pawtucket, RI 02861

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

The top 1% uses a greater share of resources and power, and have a bigger environmental impact on infrastructure built to support their extravagance. Meanwhile, everyone else, continue to pay tax for the privilege of being poor.

Respectfully,  
Catherine Katzberg



Anne Holland

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

I am the director of a private charitable LLC serving Rhode Island. We receive funding from some of the 1% in our state who are concerned about the state's inability to sustain a quality of life that benefits everyone, especially those less fortunate. However as a small organization sustained by voluntary contributions, we cannot remotely handle the big projects which are sorely needed including fixing crumbling infrastructure, funding headstart, expanding RIPTA and ensuring housing for all. We are a tiny thread of a bandaid. We deeply appreciate local governments' ability to pool resources to attack these problems at a scale that residents alone cannot. We welcome any of the proposed wealth taxes even if it means we receive less funding for our operations from our donors. Thank you.

Respectfully,  
Anne Holland



Niel Gan  
295 Grove St, Providence, RI 02909

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

Most of the people I love have at some point had their asses saved by public programs. In our increasingly internet-stretched and fragmented world, a lot of the organic safety nets that people depend on have been ruptured or don't have a chance to form in the first place. Sharing a little more of the wealth, as a result, has a disproportionate impact on the stability and aliveness and joy capacity of the world we all live in - even the wealthy.

Respectfully,  
Niel Gan



Daniel Brogan

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

Rhode Island has more billionaires per capita than Texas, and we have seen the success of Massachusetts' fair-share amendment, that has funded public transit and education. The millionaire's tax in Massachusetts has specifically made community college tuition free, and has made public transit fare free outside of the MBTA (including dial-a-ride services for people with disabilities and older adults). Rhode Island is also the least affordable place to rent/own a home in the country currently, when factoring income and cost of housing. Our neighbors are struggling, and Rhode Island has the 2nd highest rate of chronic homelessness in the country. It is not controversial to have a wealth tax, our federal gov't had wealth tax's exceeding 90% on millionaires, this is something that we know is transformative and will greatly benefit all residents in Rhode Island. Rhode Island is also 50th in infrastructure, and with recent bridge disasters, there is an opportunity to invest in infrastructure, education, transportation, healthcare, and social welfare for our community. A wealth tax is an investment in our community. I am currently a full time professional and a PhD candidate in Organizational Leadership and Policy Development, and I live paycheck to paycheck. I am very lucky and privileged compared to many of our neighbors who are working multiple jobs and sacrificing so much to live a life that offers little dignity due to the affordability crisis. All Rhode Islanders deserve dignity in their lives. When we have people freezing to death on the streets of Providence and have people living in shipping containers to build mansions for the wealthy, we can see that wealth inequality is a threat to public health and our society as a whole. This is a modest proposal that will have a multi-generational impact on Rhode Islanders. More millionaires have moved to Massachusetts since the adoption of their wealth tax. This is needed for our society to survive and have a better chance to thrive. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,  
Daniel Brogan



Alan Mendez  
200 Woodlawn Ave  
North Providence, RI 02904

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

The social programs in this country were made to help lift people up. I am a true believer that everyone would contribute and work more if they weren't always fighting a current. It is imperative that the richest country in the world take care of its people and support the weakest among us. Medicaid saves lives everyday and this program is crucial as it a testament to the amazing strides our state has made in comparison to other states. Continue and expand this program and support all Rhode Islanders.

Respectfully,  
Alan Mendez



David Sternik  
2270 Cranston St  
Cranston, RI 02920

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

Me and my Wife's total income hit 6 figures recently, that should be enough to comfortably live in this state but we can barely afford our home, electricity, gas, and groceries. I have 3 roommates who all make less than us, who want to move out but cannot afford to start their lives. Everyone I know in their 20s and 30s is cutting back but not saving anything. A generation of people who will be priced out of their dreams, while people who have way too much money don't notice these issues. Someone making over 700k will not notice having 7k less in their bank account. While that money can enable you, our government, to protect Rhode Islanders from the economic hardship of today.

Please tax the richest Rhode Islanders to better our great state.

Respectfully,  
David Sternik



Amelio Lyrus

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

As a Rhode Islander, my well-being is deeply intertwined with the health of our community. For me, that connection is very direct: I depend on Medicaid for the medical care that allows me to stay healthy and active, a contributing member of our state. It's not just about me, though. We all rely on the fundamental infrastructure that public funds support – the roads we drive on, the bridges that connect us. It sometimes feels like some forget that even the most independent among us wouldn't get far without these shared resources.

I see the impact of underfunded public services every day. For example, the indefinite closure of the RIPTA stop on Route 146 near Manville isn't just an inconvenience; it cuts off my ability to visit friends. It shrinks my world and highlights how fragile our connections can be when public transit falters.

Investing more in these crucial services isn't just a matter of convenience; it's about building a stronger, more equitable Rhode Island. Imagine a state where more reliable public transit connects communities, where access to quality healthcare is a given, and where everyone has a solid foundation of support. This isn't a utopian dream; it's a direct result of investing in each other.

To me, a society that allows extreme wealth to accumulate while basic needs go unmet isn't a society at all. It creates an imbalance where some have so much power simply because they have so much money. Raising taxes on the top 1% isn't about punishing success; it's about ensuring that everyone in Rhode Island has the opportunity to succeed and that our collective well-being is prioritized. Passing this bill and generating \$190 million in new revenue is an investment in our shared future, a future where all Rhode Islanders can thrive.

Respectfully,  
Amelio Lyrus



Stefan DiPippo  
593 Mineral Spring Ave  
Pawtucket, RI 02860

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

At this point, anyone opposed to this bill should just come out and say that they don't care about the working class. We don't want to hear "we've tried this and it's complicated-" no. I lobbied for this bill last year and one of the reps said "oh, the eat the rich bill?" which was extremely offensive, and goes to show how the privileged class literally dehumanizes the working class. The workers who keep our daily lives in motion are hurting, and the burden keeps growing, the obstacles keep stacking up, the path to prosperity grows more foreboding every single day. While the federal government pushes to spend \$400 million of tax money on a gaudy ballroom for the members of our society who contribute absolutely nothing but suffering & greed, every single one of my living expenses has increased this year, and I've got the spreadsheet to prove it. Tax the rich- they can afford it. The people can see everyone who votes against this bill. We are sick sick sick and tired tired tired.

Respectfully,  
Stefan DiPippo



Kate Schapira

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

When I pick up my friend's kids for the afternoon, I drive on a road that I couldn't possibly build, alongside RIPTA buses that reduce traffic and pollution. We play at a park that I don't have the time or the skills to maintain, pass the clinic where their neighbors on Medicaid can get care I don't know how to provide if there's something wrong, and stop off at the library for a science program that I couldn't run. Other Rhode Islanders--drivers, kids, elders, teens--are doing these things too, alongside us. Public goods are \*public.\* They benefit us all, and it is right for all of us to pay for them. Because we don't all earn the same amount of money, and some of us have less than we need while others have much, much more, it is fair for those who have much more to pay a larger share.

This is especially true in a time when some of our other ways of paying for public goods are threatened. Cuts to federal science funding threaten the Department of Health and the public health programs they provide. There have been rumors that the current federal administration wants to cut Medicaid, which will leave even more people in our state having to choose between a lack of lifesaving care and the burden of life-ruining medical debt.

Healthy people can work more consistently: their potential to contribute to the public good increases. Safe kids, kids who can run around and play, learn better: their potential to contribute to the public good increases. Elders who are cared for can share what they've learned through long lives: their potential to contribute to the public good increases. This is what Trump and his cronies are afraid of. They don't want public good, but private profit. They don't want people who are active, healthy, educated, because such people are harder to fool and harder to rob.

I would like to believe that my fellow Rhode Islanders, even the ones with a lot of money, are not like that. I would like to believe that they want my friend's kids, who are nine and seven, to grow up strong and well, learn a lot, breathe clean air. \$560 million in new revenue wouldn't replace all the funding that is threatened by the federal administration, but it would help us maintain at least some of our public goods without overburdening our least wealthy and more precarious neighbors from other angles. And it would do so without any serious breakdown in the quality of life for our wealthiest neighbors--who would, like the rest of the public, benefit from the maintenance and increase of the public good.

Respectfully,  
Kate Schapira



John Wesley  
jwesley@wesleyan.edu

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

With a complete disregard for working families and everyday people from the federal government in DC, it is past time that the most wealthy Rhode Island residents pay their fair share to help support public schools, hospitals, childcare centers, roads, bridges and public transit at a time of desperate need for the majority of folks in our state. Thank you!

Respectfully,  
John Wesley



Nancy Hoffman  
90 Pontiac Ave  
Cranston, RI 02910

Rep. Marvin Abney, Chair  
RI House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and esteemed members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of H7313 (sponsored by Rep. Karen Alzate) and H8918 (sponsored by Rep. Terri Cortvriend).

Dear Legislators and Policy Makers, I hope you are well. I hope someone has shown you kindness. I hope someone has shared what they've had with you and that you have experienced the blessings of community.

You have the chance to be the person for thousands and thousands of Rhode Islanders. You get to be the hero to many by passing the Fair Share bills. Do you remember the book, "Everything I needed to know I learned in Kindergarten"? It was all about the power of sharing, honesty, and kindness.

Please be the best kind of superhero and do the thing that will help the many. It won't hurt the rich at all -- they'll still be rich. And -- sooo many will be saved from devastating hardship.

Be the hero. Do the right thing.

Thank you and blessings to you.

N. Hoffman, Cranston