

Dear House Finance Committee,

My name is Merrill Schmidt, and I live in Cranston and work in Providence. I'm writing in support of Rep. Alzate's H-7313, which would tax the 1% and raise \$203 million/year for critical needs in Rhode Island. While I appreciate Governor McKee's Millionaire's tax proposal and think this is a good starting point, I believe that a Top 1% tax would do more to address wealth/ income inequality and 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 don't want to see my neighbors suffer needlessly from cuts to Medicaid, SNAP, or other essential benefits as a result of H.R. 1. 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 H-7313 and looking for other ways to bolster the state's budget.

Thanks for your time and consideration!

Merrill Schmidt