

Chris O'Brien

From: Muraina Akinfolarin <akinfolarin@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 10:33 AM
To: House Finance Committee; Rep. Abney, Marvin L.
Cc: Rep. Diaz, Grace; nathan.biah@ppsd.org; Rep. Batista, Jose F.; Rep. Biah, Nathan W.; Rep. Abney, Marvin L.; Rep. Hull, Raymond A.
Subject: Support and Passage of H7559
Categories: Blue category

You don't often get email from akinfolarin@msn.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

I am writing to express strong support for Joint Resolution RIBBA.2026 -- H 7597, which would appropriate \$200,000 to the Rhode Island Black Business Association (RIBBA).

Since its founding in 2011, RIBBA has played a vital role in strengthening Rhode Island's small business ecosystem by advancing opportunities for Black-owned and minority-owned businesses. Through its work in entrepreneurship training, business development, workforce readiness, advocacy, and access to capital, RIBBA has helped countless entrepreneurs launch, sustain, and grow their enterprises.

Importantly, RIBBA's programs are inclusive and accessible to all Rhode Islanders, regardless of background. This broad approach not only promotes equity but also contributes to a more resilient and diverse statewide economy. By supporting businesses at various stages of development, RIBBA helps create jobs, expand local investment, and build long-term economic stability in our communities.

As an organization that relies entirely on grants and public support, this appropriation is critical to ensuring that RIBBA can continue delivering high-impact services. The requested funding represents a strategic investment in Rhode Island's economic future—one that empowers entrepreneurs, strengthens the workforce, and fosters inclusive growth.

I respectfully urge the committee to support and advance this resolution. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to Rhode Island's business community.

Sincerely,
Morris Akinfolarin
600 Broad Street
Oasis International
Providence RI. 02907