

May 11, 2026

Re: House Bill 7389

Dear Chairman and members of the House Finance Committee,

I write as the Co-director of the TESOL/Bilingual Education Program at Rhode Island College in support of House Bill 7389.

This bill is extremely important because it helps address the ongoing teacher shortage by removing financial barriers for qualified bilingual educators. Many educators who are passionate about serving multilingual learners face significant obstacles in obtaining the necessary certifications and training to work in bilingual education programs. By providing greater support and access, this legislation would help schools recruit and retain highly qualified bilingual teachers who are urgently needed in our communities.

In addition, the bill expands access to high-quality bilingual and dual-language programs for all students. Research consistently shows that bilingual education benefits students academically, socially, and culturally. These programs not only support multilingual learners but also provide all students with opportunities to develop bilingualism, biliteracy, and cross-cultural understanding.

As someone who cares deeply about education and equitable opportunities for students, I believe this bill is an important step toward strengthening our schools and ensuring that multilingual learners receive the support they deserve. Expanding bilingual education also helps create more inclusive learning environments where students' languages and cultures are recognized as strengths rather than barriers.

I strongly encourage you to support House Bill 7389 and help ensure that all students have access to high-quality bilingual education programs and qualified educators.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "D.L.", located below the word "Sincerely,".



Alia Hadid, Ph.D. (She, her)

Assistant Professor

Co-Director of the TESOL/Bilingual Education Program

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