

House Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Testimony in Support of HB8489

Dear Chairperson and Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Adebimpe Dare, and I am the parent of a child who attends the East Providence Boys & Girls Club. I am writing in strong support of HB8489, the proposed Youth Development Bond supporting Boys & Girls Clubs across Rhode Island.

The East Providence Boys & Girls Club has had a tremendous impact on my child and our family. The Club provides a safe, supportive, and structured environment where children can learn, grow, build confidence, and develop positive relationships with caring adults.

As a working single-parent household, we find that access to affordable and reliable after-school and summer programming is incredibly important. The Club provides academic support, leadership opportunities, athletics, mentoring, and enrichment programs that help children succeed both inside and outside the classroom.

While this proposal includes important facility and infrastructure improvements, HB8489 is about far more than bricks and mortar. This investment would directly expand opportunities for Rhode Island youth and families by creating enhanced spaces for programming, workforce development, academic support, mentoring, athletics, and summer enrichment.

At the East Providence Boys & Girls Club, expanded and modernized facilities would enable the organization to serve an estimated 200 additional youth per day while strengthening workforce readiness and career exploration opportunities for teens. Improvements at Camp Crosby would also create stronger summer learning and enrichment experiences for children through expanded programming space and enhanced outdoor environments.

This investment would help ensure that more Rhode Island families have access to safe, positive spaces where children can thrive.

I respectfully urge you to support HB8489.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Adebimpe Dare
Parent, East Providence Boys & Girls Club
Riverside, RI
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