

Testimony in opposition to H8489: 2026 Bond Referenda

Barbara Walsh, 62 Frederick Street, Warwick, RI 02888

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To: Chair Abney and the honorable Members of the House Finance Committee

First of all, though I oppose this bond issue, I do support all activities offered by the Boys and Girls Clubs in RI. What I oppose is the extreme amount of money proposed in this bond referendum for one non-profit organization. There are probably hundreds of worthy non-profits deserving state assistance, many of which are listed in this year's budget for state appropriations, but at nowhere near this dollar amount. Each club could be running capital events as many other non-profits do for major building or program enhancements. The principal and interest for this bond is far in excess of what state and municipal programs might receive from other proposed bond referenda. I believe taxpayers are supportive of smaller appropriations to non-profits from the budget which are then not adding thousands of dollars in interest over often decades of repayments. This bond is just excessive.