

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing in support of House Bill 8489, relating to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Rhode Island 2026 Bond Referenda.

Boys & Girls Clubs across Rhode Island provide critical support to young people, working families, and communities every single day. These Clubs create safe spaces for youth, expand educational and workforce development opportunities, and provide programs that help young people succeed both in school and in life.

As demand for services continues to grow, investments in Club facilities and infrastructure are more important than ever. This legislation represents an opportunity to modernize aging facilities, improve safety and accessibility, increase capacity, and expand opportunities for youth and teens across Rhode Island.

Investments like these will help Clubs serve more young people, strengthen workforce readiness programs, improve energy efficiency, and ensure families continue to have access to safe, high-quality programs in their communities.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support HB 8489 and continue investing in Rhode Island's youth and future workforce.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cheikh Higgs
North Providence