

**Testimony in Support of H 7125: Capital Development Programs For Education – Statewide Referendum**

**Alexander Naydich**

**Chair Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee:**

**As resident of Providence and parent of a nearly-school age child, I urge you to support H 7125 to address the urgently needed improvements to Rhode Island’s schools. The disrepair in our schools is directly affecting our children’s health, with the worst burdens falling on children in lower income communities. Fixing issues like mold, leaking buildings, ineffective HVAC systems will give our children the healthy schools they deserve, creating an environment where our future citizens can get a proper education. This bill also includes strong incentives for energy efficiency (which will lead to reduced energy costs and reduced emissions) and labor standards which require apprenticeship programs, creating thousands of jobs for our community.**

**The previous \$250M bond from 2018 has led to \$1.75 billion in approved school building improvement projects, benefitting over 100,000 students a year—but there is much more work to be done. Repairing and modernizing our schools will show our children that Rhode Island cares about them. It will also demonstrate that we are serious about our state’s commitments to reducing emissions and mitigating climate change, the biggest collective challenge our kids will face in their lives. We can’t afford to not act. Please pass H 7125 and bring this bond to a referendum.**

**Sincerely,  
Alexander Naydich  
Providence**