

## **Testimony in support of the Supplemental Appropriations Request**

October 19, 2021

Honorable Chairperson Abney and members of the House Finance Committee:

I am [Hugo R. Adames, The Talent Factory Performing Arts Centre ]

As a small business owner and member of the RI Small Business Coalition, I support the Supplemental Request to Amend FY 2022, specifically the \$32,000,000 requested for Impacted Small Business and Industry and the \$13,000,000 requested for Tourism, Hospitality, and Events Industry Support.

The Talent Factory works directly with children who to date are the majority unvaccinated population in the country. Our business is still battling a 50% loss in enrollment/revenue. This money could help business like mine maneuver through the harsh waters of reality. Parents still fear entering their children into after school activities. We need to assure them every measure has been taken to create a safe and sanitary environment for children to learn while being around their peers. Help us keep our doors open and continue being apart of many families lives. Keep in mind, your favorite actor started in a place just like ours.

The \$32 million requested by the Governor to provide direct financial assistance to these businesses would be a vital lifeline to keep many of these small businesses going. In addition, tourism, hospitality and events are badly in need of additional support and the \$13 million requested would be a step in the right direction.

Respectfully, I urge the Committee to vote this Supplemental Appropriations Request forward to the full House. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hugo R. Adames', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hugo R. Adames