



Hon. Arthur Corvese
Chair of the House Committee on Labor
Members of the House Committee on Labor

**RE: Support for House Bill #5684
(RELATING TO PUBLIC PROPERTY AND WORKS - MINORITY BUSINESS)**

Dear Chairman Craven and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

I write to you as Co-Chair of the Rhode Island Black, Latino, Indigenous, Asian American, and Pacific Islander (RIBLIA) Caucus in strong support of House Bill #5684. Today, our Caucus stands at the largest it's ever been, with 21 members representing communities across our state.

This year, the caucus is prioritizing 15 bills that reflect our unwavering commitment to defending the marginalized and ensuring a fair and equitable future for all Rhode Islanders. **Aligning with our commitment to improving the living and economic conditions of our constituents, the RIBLIA Caucus supports House Bill #5684 by Rep. Giraldo, which would require the Department of Administration to provide a list of certified minority and women-owned business enterprises (MBEs and WBEs) to prospective contractors and prohibit waivers until contractors seek assistance from the department.**

For too long, minority and women-owned businesses have faced systemic barriers that limit their participation in public contracts. The lack of transparency and accountability in the procurement process has created inequities, preventing these businesses from securing opportunities to grow and thrive. By ensuring that contractors receive a list of certified MBEs and WBEs and prohibiting the issuance of waivers without first seeking assistance, this bill addresses these disparities and promotes equitable contracting practices.

House Bill #5684 is a crucial step toward fostering economic inclusion and empowering underrepresented business owners. It enhances transparency in the public procurement process and ensures that minority and women-owned businesses have a fair chance to participate in Rhode Island's economy.

Members of the RIBLIA Caucus urge passage of this bill. Thank you for your consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Morales", written in a cursive style.

Rep. David Morales
Co-Chair RIBLIA Caucus