



State of Rhode Island
Office of the General Treasurer
State House – Room 102
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Seth Magaziner
General Treasurer

February 2, 2022

Honorable Anastasia Williams, Chair
House Committee on Labor

Re: In support of H7027- An Act Relating to Public Property and Works – Labor and Payment of Debts by Contractors

Dear Chair Williams,

I write to express my support for H7027, legislation that requires that school construction projects over \$5 million include an approved apprenticeship program. In 2018, when I co-chaired the Rhode Island School Building Task Force, our primary goal was to make every Rhode Island school warm, safe, dry and equipped for 21st century learning. But another important goal was to create jobs – employing local trades men and women workers to improve our schools.

Since the passage of the school construction plan in 2018, there has been \$1.75 billion in approvals to repair or replace 189 school buildings in 28 districts. This will benefit over 100,000 students and support over 28,000 jobs. But there is still work to do to improve learning environments for students across Rhode Island.

Adding apprenticeship programs to these projects will offer Rhode Islanders with the opportunity to gain real, practical job training and a pathway to a stable, well-paying career. Apprenticeships also offer workers the chance to earn while they learn, opening doors to the middle class as an alternative to traditional higher education.

Last month, we unveiled our 2022 school construction plan, which proposes a \$300 million bond for public school building, continuing incentive funding for educational enhancements like career and technical education, new incentives for employing local and minority-owned vendors, and improved labor and environmental standards. This plan includes requiring an approved apprenticeship program, as proposed in H7027, and I support integrating this into the final school construction plan passed by the General Assembly. Continued investment in our schools with apprenticeship utilization will benefit students, our local tradesmen and tradeswomen, and the State as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact my Office with any questions.

Sincerely,

Seth Magaziner
General Treasurer

cc: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Labor
Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker of the House
Honorable John G. Edwards