



RHODE ISLAND
FEDERATION OF TEACHERS AND
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ^{AFT}_{AFL-CIO}

To: House State Government & Elections Committee

From: James Parisi, Field Representative

Date: April 22, 2025

Re: **Retirement Board Meeting Access**

Testimony in **support** of 2025 – H 5715 (Representative Serpa, et. al.)

The Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals supports H 5715 and appreciates its introduction by Representative Serpa. The RIFTHP represents thousands of active public employees and thousands of public employee retirees who have an interest in the decisions made by the Retirement Board.

H 5715 specifies that audio or video recording would be made of all future meetings of the Retirement Board. The bill also requires that the recordings be available on the Employees Retirement System of Rhode Island (ERSRI) website. These provisions would provide greater access by active and retired teachers, state employees and municipal workers to the deliberations and decisions made by the Retirement Board. The RIFTHP supports expanded access to public meetings and supports this portion of the bill.

H 5715 ensures that the State Investment Commission meetings are also recorded, and the recordings would be available on the ERSRI website. We support this provision as well.

356 SMITH STREET PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02908-3761 (401) 273-9800 FAX (401) 331-8815

• **Maribeth Calabro**, President • **Bonnie Horta**, Executive Assistant • **Maria Manzi**, Administrative Assistant •
• **Michael J. Mullane**, Field Representative • **James A. Parisi**, Field Representative •
• **Christopher Lambert**, Field Representative • **Jeremy Sencer**, Field Representative •