



February 27, 2026

Dear Chairman and Committee Members,

My name is Juan Pablo Ocampo and I'm the Coordinator for the Immigrant Coalition of Rhode Island. On behalf of the Immigrant Coalition and our 40 member organizations, I ask this Committee to support House Bill 7236.

Despite decades of efforts, wage, wealth, health, and other significant equity gaps persist, impacting Black, Latino, Indigenous, and other Rhode Islanders of color. Black and Latino residents have a home ownership rate of approximately half that of white residents. Black and Latino workers are two times more likely than white workers to earn under \$15 an hour. 9.9 times more Black people are incarcerated than their white counterparts. We need a state budget that addresses those and many more inequities. And we need to be able to hold elected officials accountable for enacting policies that change these devastating statistics.

Other states in New England, such as Connecticut and Maine, have passed legislation that requires the governor's budget document to include an explanation of how the provisions further equity in the state. Don't let Rhode Island fall behind.

I urge the members of this committee to support HB 7236, because when our budget centers equity, it can do a lot more than increase equity: it can heal and transform our state. We urge this Committee to stand with us on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Juan Pablo Ocampo Sheen, Coordinator
c/o Immigrant Coalition of Rhode Island
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THE IMMIGRANT COALITION OF RHODE ISLAND MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

American Civil Liberties Union of Rhode Island (ACLU RI)
AMOR: Alliance to Mobilize Our Resistance
Alliance of Rhode Island Southeast Asians for Education (ARISE)
Center for Justice RI
Coalition for a Multilingual RI (CMRI)
Coalition of Advocates for Student Opportunities (CASO)
Conexión Latina Newport
Connecting for Children and Families
DARE: Direct Action For Rights And Equality
Diocese of Providence
Dorcas International Institute
Economic Progress Institute
Elmwood Avenue Church of God Refugee Relief
First Unitarian Church of Providence Sanctuary Group
Family Service of Rhode Island (FSRI)
Fuerza Laboral
International House of Rhode Island
Latino Policy Institute
Lawyers' Committee for Rhode Island
New Bridges for Haitian Success
Olneyville Neighborhood Association (ONA)
Olneyville Resilience Hub
Oasis International
Planned Parenthood of Southern New England
Progreso Latino
Providence Youth Student Movement (PrYSM)
Refugee Dream Center
Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV)
Rhode Island KIDS COUNT
RI Coalition for Children and Families
RI Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty
RI State Council of Churches
RWU Immigration Law Clinic
RWU Pro Bono Collaborative
Sisters of Mercy
Sojourner House
Student Clinic for Immigrant Justice
The Jewish Alliance of Greater RI
The Liberian Community Association
Truth in Immigration Project