



RHODE ISLAND  
FEDERATION OF TEACHERS AND  
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AFT  
AFL - CIO

To: Senate Committee on Education  
From: Maribeth Calabro, President  
Date: March 4, 2026  
Re: Constitutional Right to Adequate Education  
Testimony in **Support of 2026-S 2018** (Senator Acosta, et al.)

The Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals (RIFTHP) supports S 2018, which would place before the voters a proposed constitutional amendment recognizing the right to an equitable, adequate, and meaningful public education.

The resolution affirms the state's responsibility to ensure that public education meets a consistent constitutional standard. Establishing that responsibility within the Constitution clarifies the state's obligation to students and communities across Rhode Island.

The amendment provides that this article would be judicially enforceable. As with other constitutional provisions, any future interpretation would be determined through the normal judicial process. The resolution does not alter existing statutes governing educators or collective bargaining rights.

RIFTHP supports submitting this proposal to the voters for their consideration.

The RIFTHP urges passage of the resolution.

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