



24 March 2026

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2650

Dear Chairwoman Gallo and the members of the Senate Education Committee,

We are writing today on behalf of the Rhode Island College faculty to express our support for Senate Bill 2650.

This legislation will help more Rhode Islanders access higher education and thus will help build a more educated citizenry. Higher education helps people become more civically engaged, results in greater job opportunities, leads to higher tax revenues, and improves a variety of life outcomes related to health and well-being.

We urge you to support this common-sense legislation that simply defines Rhode Island residency in a reasonable and comprehensible way.

Thank you,

A blue ink signature of Mikaila Mariel Lemonik Arthur, consisting of a series of fluid, connected strokes.

Mikaila Mariel Lemonik Arthur, Ph.D.
President, RIC/AFT Local 1819
Providence, RI 02906

A black ink signature of Rebecca Sparks, written in a cursive style.

Rebecca Sparks, Ph.D.
Vice President, RIC/AFT Local 1819
Lincoln, RI 02865

A red ink signature of Vincent Bohlinger, written in a cursive style.

Vincent Bohlinger, Ph.D.
Chair, Committee on Political Education, RIC/AFT Local 1819
Warwick, RI 02889