

Dear Chairman DiPalma and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

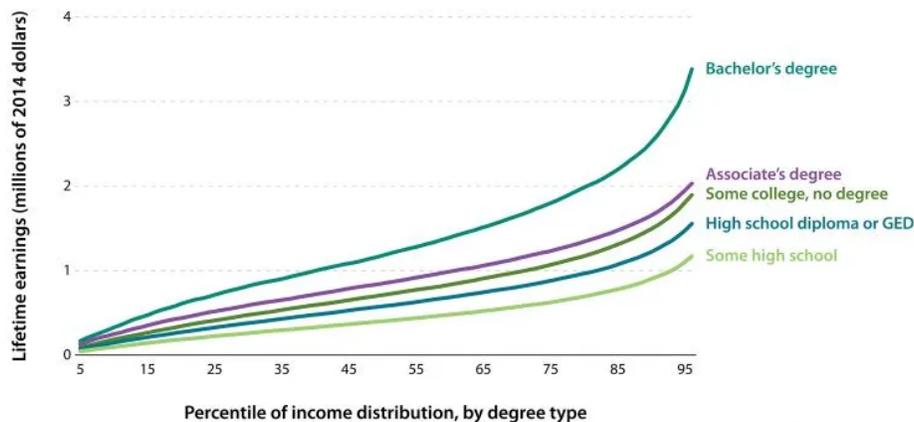
My name is Michael R. Caine. I am a member of the Council 94 local 2879 at RI College. I am writing to express my sincere support for Article 7, Sections 4 and 5 of bill H7127 regarding the Hope Scholarship at RI College. Since the 2023-2024 academic year. I have firsthand seen the tremendous impact that that the Hope Scholarship has had at both Rhode Islanders and RI College. We are on an extremely positive trajectory and I among my union members are ready to continue to work diligently to support students on their path to meeting the requirements of the Hope Scholarship.

As listed in RI College's mission and goals. The core values of this bill yield significant correspondence in expanding educational access, increases in four year graduation rates, strengthening overall student success outcomes, and preparing Rhode Islanders for in-demand and high-quality jobs.

Pertinent to Hope Scholarship – Article 7, Sections 4 and 5. The Hope Scholarship has continued to evidently bring to light that the overall framework of achievements obtained by our students. Some I can list but not limited to; clear and positive impacts on student enrollment, year to year retention, and on time graduation rates. This bill also provides Rhode Islanders with the opportunity for an increase in economic mobility. This positions Rhode Islanders for promoting sustainable wage growth. This is related to the fact that the median college graduate earns \$1.2 million over their lifetime, twice as much as a high school graduate. I have attached a graph below with its source listed for reference.

FIGURE 1.
Lifetime Earnings by Degree Type

The median college graduate earns \$1.2 million over their lifetime, twice as much as a high school graduate.



Sources: Hershbein and Kearney 2014, based on Census Bureau 2009–12.
Note: Earnings are in millions of 2014 dollars and represent those who worked at least one week in the past year. Individuals who earned a graduate degree are not included.

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Currently, the Hope Scholarship is funded through June 30th of 2030. Which in return shows that the last cohort of students eligible for this scholarship is those enrolling for Fall of 2026. By making Hope Scholarship permanent, it will have long standing positive impacts for Rhode Islanders for years to come.

Thank you for your time and continued support,
Michael R. Caine

Dear Chairman DiPalma and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Michael R. Caine. I am a member of the Council 94 local 2879 at RI College. I am writing to express my sincere support for the \$50 million G.O. bond supporting the renovating of our Adams Library. (Article 6 Question 1) The positive strategic trajectory involved with the renovations of our Adams Library would be of tremendous advantage to our student body at RI College. As you may know, RI College serves approximately 6,600 students. Many of which are Rhode Islanders. I also find it important to note that the Adams Library also is open to RI residents who are not students in higher education. Adding an additional aspect of value to this G.O bond.

Some key details of the G.O. bond is that the capital improvement completion positively positions RI College in many ways. Mainly, the centralized Student Success and Career Readiness Center. This one stop shop for student services would yield a significant positive impact for the overall student experience at RI College. Going from a student needing to travel to several buildings across our vast campus to one centralized building is a significant improvement. In addition, our council 94 union members benefit from the ability to provide better quality customer service and achieve higher first contact resolution rates of interactions with the student body. Centrally locating front line student facing staff departments reduces transfers and time completed to complete transactions. This is critical for students to stay on track to graduate on time in four years. Reducing student frustrations and increasing on time graduation rates is one of our strategic goals laid out in our Strategic Compass that also yields tremendous positive impacts throughout Rhode Island as a whole.

This transformative capital improvement also achieves the governor's initiative of keeping RI building and improving our facilities as a state. Providing additional construction jobs to the overall employment opportunities within the state. In addition to this capital improvement renovation aligning with the college's strategic priorities and the state's economic goals. This idea constitutes from creating a centralized, student-centered facility that prepares learners for success in both colleges and careers. Tentative completion of this capital renovation is slated for FY 2030.

Thank you for your time and continued support,

Michael R. Caine

Dear Chairman DiPalma and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Michael R. Caine. I am a member of the Council 94 local 2879 at RI College. I am writing to express my sincere support for the approval of the RIHEBC revenue bond for resident's hall improvements at RI College. (Budgets Article 4) Upgrading RIC residence halls are essential to addressing significant deterred maintenance. In return, this would yield tremendous impact to the student on campus housing experiences. Currently, on-campus housing at RI College plays a pivotal role in supporting students. Some examples are fostering a strong campus community and enriching student experiences.

We as an institution recognize that our current on campus housing debt service obligation ends this fiscal year. We will be placed in a unique situation to incur new debt service obligations without needing to change budgeting allocations on a yearly basis towards paying debt service obligations. Balancing current service level budgeting for our auxiliary on campus concurrently yields significant returns to our campus. One of which benefits both Rhode Islanders and potential new residents. As our out of state resident students have the opportunity to choose to move to RI as a permanent resident after college completion.

Thank you for your time and continued support,

Michael R. Caine