



March 12, 2026

The Honorable Louis A. DiPalma
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02903

RE: Article 6 Question 1

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the faculty and support staff we represent at URI and CCRI, we write in strong support of the proposed 2026 bond question authorizing \$215 million in capital investments for higher education facilities. These investments represent a critical commitment to the students, workforce, and communities served by our state's public colleges and universities.

For decades, public higher education has been one of Rhode Island's most important engines of economic opportunity. However, many of the facilities that support teaching, research, and workforce training have aged significantly and require modernization to meet the needs of today's students and employers. The projects included in this bond will strengthen the infrastructure necessary to prepare Rhode Islanders for careers in healthcare, education, technology, and other critical sectors.

The proposed Integrated Health Building at the University of Rhode Island will help expand the state's capacity to educate and train the next generation of healthcare professionals. By bringing together modern classrooms, clinical training space, and collaborative learning environments, the project will help address Rhode Island's growing healthcare workforce needs while enhancing interdisciplinary education.

Similarly, the proposed Workforce Innovation Center at the Community College of Rhode Island's Warwick campus will expand the state's ability to deliver high-quality career and technical education programs aligned with Rhode Island's workforce needs. Investments in modern training facilities will allow students to gain hands-on experience in fields where the state faces persistent workforce shortages.

Faculty and staff see firsthand how the physical learning environment shapes student success. Modern, well-designed facilities support collaboration, innovation, and effective instruction, while outdated spaces can limit the ability of institutions to deliver the high-quality education Rhode Islanders deserve. These investments will help ensure that our public colleges and universities remain competitive and capable of serving the state's evolving educational and workforce priorities.

For these reasons, we urge the General Assembly to place this bond question before the voters and encourage Rhode Islanders to support this important investment in the future of our public higher education system.

Thank you for your continued commitment to Rhode Island's students and the institutions that serve them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alexander Lucini".

Alexander Lucini
Government Relations Director, NEARI