

Testimony on Senate Bill 2238
An Act Relating To Taxation – Personal Income Tax

April 30, 2026

Chairman DiPalma and members of the Senate Committee on Finance:

My name is Myles Brawn-Husband, and I am a resident of Warwick. I serve as a Peer Support Specialist and community advocate. I am writing to you today to urge the passage of Senate Bill 2238, a bill that ensures our tax code reflects the reality of the people who keep Rhode Island running.

Supporting Hard-Working Americans: The backbone of our state is made up of hard-working Americans, healthcare workers, educators, and service members, who show up every day to build our community. These individuals should not suffer the consequences of an underfunded system. When we fail to fund our public infrastructure, it is the working class that pays the price through service cuts, crumbling roads, and reduced opportunities. SB 2238 is about ensuring that hard work is met with a state government that has the resources to support its people.

Fairness and Equity: For too long, the wealthiest 1% have benefited from a tax structure that allows them to pay a lower effective rate than many middle-class families. This is not just a matter of economics; it is a matter of fairness. By establishing a 3% surcharge on taxable income exceeding \$640,000, we are asking those who have achieved the highest levels of financial success to contribute in a way that is proportional to the benefits they receive from our shared society.

Investing in Our Shared Future: The revenue generated by this bill—estimated at over \$60 million annually—is a lifeline for our state.

Transit and Mobility: For the peers I support and the thousands of Rhode Islanders who rely on RIPTA, frequent and reliable transit is essential for reaching employment and healthcare.

Economic Stability: Investing in education and infrastructure makes Rhode Island a place where businesses want to stay and where workers can afford to live.

This legislation is not a penalty on success; it is an investment in the foundation that makes success possible for everyone. We must prioritize the well-being of hard-working Rhode Islanders over the protection of excessive wealth.

I strongly urge this committee to recommend SB 2238 for passage. Thank you for your consideration.

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