



State of Rhode Island
Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos

May 19, 2026

The Honorable Louis DiPalma
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
82 Smith St
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Letter of Support for S2245: An Act Relating To Education -- The Educational Equity And Property Tax Relief Act

Dear Chair DiPalma:

I write to you in support of S2245: An Act Relating To Education -- The Educational Equity And Property Tax Relief Act. This bill mandates public schools (K-12) have one full-time certified social worker for every 250 students and allocates \$2 million in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget for school districts and municipalities to hire additional social workers.

School social workers provide invaluable care and support to students throughout the state, connecting students and families to vital services, care-providers, and more. Although nationwide experts agree that the ideal social-worker-to-student ratio is roughly 250:1, the School Social Work Association of America reports that Rhode Island currently has a ratio of 686:1. S2245 address this by allocating an additional \$2 million in FY27 to help school districts hire enough social workers to adequately meet the need.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote this bill favorably out of committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabina Matos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sabina Matos

Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor

CC: Senator Sosnowski