

Testimony on Senate Bill 2361
An Act Relating To Taxation -- Wealth Tax

April 30, 2026

Chairman DiPalma and members of the Senate Committee on Finance:

My name is Zachary Gauthier. I am a resident of Johnston and the owner and supervisor of "Giving Hope Peer Supports by Zachary Gauthier." I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 2361.

As a business owner, I value hard work and the money people earn. However, I am sickened by the "broken heart" I see in our community due to the cancer of under funding. We cannot allow our beautiful state to suffer while the foundation of our system is crumbling.

I urge this committee to invest in this bill so that the "RIDE program", the "Flex Service", and the "big buses" can thrive.

When these systems are strong, it creates robust competition and a better economy for everyone. I promise that even the millionaires at the top will see this investment come back tenfold—it will make them money, and it will make the whole state money.

Success for some should not come at the cost of the basic needs of others. We need to fix the boat from the bottom up so everyone stays afloat. You cannot have anything on the bottom or the top if the foundation isn't there to hold it up.

I ask you to please support Senate Bill 2361 so we can let Rhode Island reach its full potential.

Thank you for your time and your consideration in this matter.

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