



## Conexión Latina

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To: Senate Finance Committee

From: Rebekah Gomez, Executive Director, Conexión Latina Newport.

Date: May 18, 2026

Re: Bill Number, S2555 : In support of "Support and access to bilingual education or the SABLE act" Bill S2555.

Dear Chairperson DiPalma and esteemed members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Rebekah Gomez and I am the founder and Executive Director of Conexión Latina Newport. I am writing in support of the SABLE act, Support and Access to Bilingual Education, and ask you to please vote in favor of supporting multilingual education for Newport students.

You may not be surprised to hear that Newport Public Schools has one of the largest concentrations of multilingual learners in Rhode Island. However what you may find shocking is that just 10 days ago, their administration pink slipped and issued non-renewal of contract letters to over 40 teachers in Newport, many of them MLL teachers. They even let one of the only native Spanish speaking, bilingual teachers in our entire district go, while the rest of the state is scrambling for ways to find teachers with those qualifications. These cuts were all made due to a huge budget shortfall that our MLL students are going to pay the price for. At the same time I received a call from one of our administrators asking if we could help bring Multilingual families and students to their School Improvement Team meeting, to discuss how they can improve their rate of students successfully exiting the MLL program. Last year 20+ exited the program, but this year no students achieved this goal.

Our School Committee and our City Council have unanimously approved resolutions to support the SABLE act. Our community, administration and families understand how vitally important MLL education is for Newport, and our MLL students can only grow and improve with your support. Please let them know that you care by voting yes on the SABLE act S2555.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Rebekah Gomez  
Executive Director  
Conexión Latina Newport