

Jamie Plume

From: Farouk Ajakaiye <ajakaiyef@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 2:22 PM
To: Rep. Diaz, Grace
Cc: Sen. DiPalma, Louis P.; Senate Finance; Sen. Bell, Samuel W.; Sen. Bissaillon, Jacob E.
Subject: Tonight's Senate Hearing

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Dear Senate Finance Committee and Representative Diaz,

I am writing to you today as a resident of District 11 to express my strong support for Bill S2558, which provides critical funding for the Rhode Island Black Business Association (RIBBA).

This funding is essential to sustaining RIBBA's workforce and small-business programs. I can speak to the impact of these programs personally, as I was a member of the very first cohort of the Emerging Leaders program, and it was truly a life-changing experience for me. As a marketing professional and a member of the local business community, I have seen firsthand how vital these resources are for building a more equitable and prosperous Rhode Island.

I urge the Committee to support the passage of S2558, and I hope Representative Diaz will champion this effort for our district.

Thank you for your time and for your dedication to our community.