



State of Rhode Island
Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos

May 12, 2026

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

Re: Letter of Support for SJR2558: Joint Resolution Making An Appropriation Of \$200,000 To The Rhode Island Black Business Association

Dear Chair DiPalma:

I write to you in support of SJR2558: Joint Resolution Making An Appropriation Of \$200,000 To The Rhode Island Black Business Association.

As a non-profit organization, RIBBA is committed to closing the wealth gap in Rhode Island by empowering all residents to thrive and fostering equitable opportunities for future generations. Their 2025 Impact Report found that, over the course of their 16 years of service, they have provided over 1700 small business clients with technical assistance, awarded over \$200,000 in micro-grants to Rhode Island small businesses, and created a workforce development pipeline through which over 3000 people have gained employment.

As the Chair of the Small Business Advocacy Council, I recognize the importance of our private, non-profit partners in creating a robust small business ecosystem in our state. RIBBA has been a committed partner, both through the SBAC and beyond it. 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: Sen. Jacob Bissailon