



State of Rhode Island
Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos

May 14, 2026

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

Re: Letter of Support for S2083 and S2663: An Act Relating To Education -- Federal Aid

Dear Chair DiPalma:

I write to you in support of S2083 and S2663: An Act Relating To Education -- Federal Aid. These bills establish a statewide "Healthy School Meals for all" universal school breakfast and lunch program in Rhode Island public schools phased in over 3 years.

We have known for decades that access to healthy, nutritious food directly impacts a student's academic performance and emotional well-being. Sadly, for far too many students in this state, the meals they eat at school constitute the only stable food source they can rely upon. We learned during the State House's Food Insecurity Day that nearly 1-in-3 Rhode Island families currently experience food insecurity.

With the rising costs of groceries nationwide, school lunches offer a more affordable way for students to eat compared to a packed lunch from home. Sadly, even the cost of school meals can be prohibitive to working families in our state. Absolutely no child should ever go hungry simply because they don't have the ability to pay for a school meal. These two bills both advocate to introduce a program that would provide breakfast and lunch for Rhode Island public school students. I respect the deliberative process of the legislature to determine which of these two bills, or a combination thereof, is most appropriate to move forward. However, I wish to go on record in support of ensuring that every student in Rhode Island has access to school meals.

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: Senators Acosta and Vargas