

**Jamie Plume**

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**From:** barry schiller <bschillert358@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2026 5:49 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** support for S2676 from Barry Schiller

Dear Senate Finance Committee

This is Barry Schiller writing to support bill S2676 to allocate \$150,000 to continue the good work being done by the Main Street Rhode Island program. The small amount of money that the program gets has already started a process that could help revitalize our traditional "Main Streets" which can help boost businesses and the economy, improve our walking environment, support our land use goals, preserve historical resources, and enhance our quality of life.

I thank the sponsors, and the Committee for considering my submission.

Barry Schiller, North Providence

**Jamie Plume**

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**From:** wwjayceeskc <wwjayceeskc@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 27, 2026 6:01 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Cc:** wwjayceeskc@aol.com  
**Subject:** RI SENATE FINANCE CMTE ~ Written Testimony in Support of Senate Resolution S2676 (MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$150,000 TO THE MAIN STREET RHODE ISLAND PROGRAM)

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## **JAYCEES** of Kent County in Rhode Island

~ 72 Years of Outstanding Public Service: 1953/54 - 2025/2026 ~

Post Office Box 3 4 8 W. Warwick, R.I. 02893

(401) 828-9191 Fax: 823-9449

{e} [WWjayceesKC@aol.com](mailto:WWjayceesKC@aol.com)

**26 April 26**

**Senate Finance Committee  
Rhode Island General Assembly  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903**

**RE: Written Testimony in Support of Senate Resolution S2676 (MAKING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$150,000 TO THE MAIN STREET RHODE ISLAND PROGRAM)**

**FROM: JACK LANCELLOTTA / JAYCEES EDUCATION & LIBRARY FOUNDATION**

**Dear Chairman DiPalma and Members of the Rhode Island Senate Finance Committee:**

**As Ex. Director of the JAYCEES Education & Library Foundation, committed the precepts of sound community development through the entrepreneurial enhancement, I write in strong support of continued state funding for Main Street Rhode Island, managed by Grow Smart RI in partnership with Main Street America. I urge the Committee to approve the \$150,000 appropriation in S2676 for FY 2027. This is a high-return economic development investment, and the time to act is now.**

**Rhode Island's walkable, historic commercial districts are among the state's most underutilized economic assets. Main Street Rhode Island exists to change that, through a coordinated statewide network backed by Main Street America's 46-year track record. What makes this program work is who it brings together. The network currently spans across 28 of our 39 municipalities, connecting local government, neighborhood associations, community development leaders, and small business owners at**

the same table, to brainstorm and build strategies no individual community can generate on its own. Through free monthly roundtables, network convenings, technical assistance trainings, and the inaugural Main Street Together Conference, Main Street Rhode Island serves as the catalyst for strengthening our Main Street districts as places where small businesses can succeed and community connections can grow. We need to capitalize on this momentum.

**State investment in this program is not a subsidy or grant, it is leverage.** The Main Street America model carries a documented average return on investment of 24 to 1, generating much needed state and municipal revenue. Intentional local efforts produced by participation in this program attract private spending, business reinvestment, and property development that would not otherwise occur. A well-resourced state coordinating program creates the conditions for that investment: trained local leadership, documented strategies, and a credible, connected network of communities ready to act. Every dollar of state funding directed toward this infrastructure is a multiplier for local economic activity.

***Community organizations make Rhode Island's Main Street network more engaged and knowledgeable by supplying local insight, technical support, coordination, resources, and community-driven priorities.*** They ensure that revitalization efforts are not isolated projects but part of a connected, statewide movement grounded in real community needs.

***Rhode Island's General Assembly noted that local organizations have long worked hard on Main Streets, but lacked coordinated planning and intrastate communication.*** Community organizations fill this gap by participating in the statewide network, sharing best practices, and aligning their local work with statewide goals. This coordination directly supports a more engaged and informed Main Street ecosystem.

**As we near the end of Year 1 of the three-year pilot established in 2025 legislation, the state's early investment is beginning to compound.** Communities participating in the inaugural "learning cohort" are moving from learning to action, developing projects with real economic potential through Main Street America's Four Point Approach. That technical assistance pipeline exists only because Rhode Island maintains an active state-level partnership with Main Street America. Without continued funding, that partnership cannot be sustained, the momentum communities have built would stall, and the returns the state has already begun to see would be left unrealized.

**I respectfully urge the Senate Finance Committee to approve the \$150,000 appropriation for Main Street Rhode Island in FY 2027.**

**Thank you for your consideration. I invite you to contact me should you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further.**

Sincerely,

Jack Lancellotta, Ex. Director

JAYCEES Education & Library Foundation

(401) 828-9191 [wwJAYCEESkc@aol.com](mailto:wwJAYCEESkc@aol.com)