

Angel's Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 2822

June 1, 2026

To Chairman DiPalma and sitting Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Angel Lopez, and I am a resident of Providence. I write to you today in opposition to Senate Bill 2822. This law proposal is lacking the necessary controls to ensure the best interests of Rhode Island. The purpose of this legislation is to establish rules that “*reflect the intent to promote and encourage the use of public private partnerships in the state*” (lines 4 and 5 of page 2). The language defines the term Risk but fails to mention the term in any of the parameters described in subsection (e). If the focus is to stimulate and cheer for the Privatization of state services and assets, this legislation must also include standards of conduct for any private partner.

I highly recommend all members of this committee to download and read the Privatization Resource Guide Published by In the Public Interest on March 2025. For your convenience you can access the resource guide by clicking the link -> [New Resource Guide Provides Quick Access to ITPI Research](#).

The resource guide has a report called How Privatization Increases Inequality, of which I can see many of the impacts described in the report occurring today within our state. I have included two examples from the report to show how corporations profit from public services and how privatizing public sector jobs impact government workers respectively.

Example 1:

“J.P. Morgan Chase, which in 2012 controlled EBT contracts in 21 states, Guam, and the Virgin Islands, made more than half a billion dollars between 2004 and 2012 providing public assistance benefits.” (*How Privatization Increases Inequality, Page 29*)

Example 2:

The report goes on to state that Government jobs have historically created intentional “ladders of opportunity” allowing workers and their families to reach the middle class. Outsourcing public sector jobs to private contractors has reversed this trend causing many

Angel's Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 2822

contracted positions to turn into poverty-level jobs to reduce costs. This forces many of those workers to depend on public benefits to make ends meet. (*How Privatization Increases Inequality, page 36*)

For Rhode Island, the loss of public sector jobs can have devastating impacts on the women who occupy almost half of the state positions and on the Black, Latino, and Asian workers who jointly occupy approximately 22% of State jobs. (State of RI job source: [State of Rhode Island Number of Employees, Statistics, Diversity, Demographics, and Facts - Zippia](#))

I share these examples as a reminder of the documented impacts of PPP Agreements. How will more inequality promote the best interests of Rhode Island? How does S 2822 protect public sector jobs?

Pages two and three of the bill describe what the proposal requirements must contain, but there is nothing tangible to keep private partners accountable to our state. The bill includes state standards and guardrails for construction projects but does not mention any controls for the operate-maintain activities of state assets. There is an exemption for labor agreements on line 5 of page 3 for PPP proposals over \$25 Million USD. This makes the inclusion of a private partner's plan for labor harmony "fluff." My perspective and worry for the state's public sector workers are further supported by subsection (g) which allows the displacement of "any/all state or quasi-public employees, represented by a bargaining unit" (line 17 of page 3).

For the sake of all public sector jobs in Rhode Island and for the public services that most Rhode Islanders depend on. Please Hold Senate Bill 2822.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Angel Lopez
Resident of Providence