

Jamie Plume

From: Rhiannon Miller <rhiannon.miller@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 2:44 PM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: Bill S3015

You don't often get email from rhiannon.miller@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Rhiannon Miller and I am a parent in Providence with a child in the public school system. I am writing because I care deeply about the quality of education my child and his peers receive, and I believe you do too. Rhode Island's school funding system is not working for districts like mine that support higher needs populations and draw from a larger proportion of low-income communities. The way we fund our public schools is outdated and inequitable. Districts struggle to afford basic services like supplying teachers with enough printer paper and having substitute teachers available when primary teachers are absent.

Last year, the Blue Ribbon Commission released a comprehensive plan to fix this. Eighteen leaders from across Rhode Island — including educators, parents, municipal officials, and advocates — agreed on a path forward. Now it's time for the General Assembly to act. **I am asking you to support Senate Bill 3015 that enacts the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendations into law.** Every child in Rhode Island deserves a fair, well-funded education, and that starts with getting the funding formula right. It makes absolutely no sense that a district like Providence would receive the same proportion of funding as a district like Barrington. As a social scientist, I know that decades of research supports a more equitable distribution of school funding and will result in **better outcomes for all children and their communities.**

As the Finance Committee, I know you care about the financial viability of this plan, and that has been accounted for. The Commission's recommendations are designed to be implemented in a phased, fiscally responsible way. Some elements — such as the state assuming legacy teacher pension liabilities — actually reduce long-term costs. Fairer funding also means smarter spending, with stronger accountability built in. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Rhiannon Miller
Providence

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Rhiannon Miller (she/her)
Department of Sociology & Anthropology
Providence College

Jamie Plume

From: Nicole Heig <nicole.heig@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 1:33 PM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: Support senate bill 3015

[You don't often get email from nicole.heig@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Nicole Heig and I am a parent in Providence with a child in the public school system. I am writing because I care deeply about the quality of education my child receives, and I believe you do too. Rhode Island's school funding system is not working for families like mine. The way we fund our public schools is outdated and inequitable. Districts struggle to afford basic services. Students who need extra support, including English language learners and children with disabilities, aren't receiving adequate resources. And school administrators are forced to make major budget decisions without knowing their state funding until the last minute. Last year, the Blue Ribbon Commission released a comprehensive plan to fix this. Eighteen leaders from across Rhode Island — including educators, parents, municipal officials, and advocates — agreed on a path forward. Now it's time for the General Assembly to act. I am asking you to support Senate Bill 3015 that enacts the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendations into law. Every child in Rhode Island deserves a fair, well-funded education, and that starts with getting the funding formula right. As the Finance Committee, I know you care about the financial viability of this plan, and that has been accounted for. The Commission's recommendations are designed to be implemented in a phased, fiscally responsible way. Some elements — such as the state assuming legacy teacher pension liabilities — actually reduce long-term costs. Fairer funding also means smarter spending, with stronger accountability built in. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Nicole Heig
parent of a first grader at RFK in Providence

Jamie Plume

From: Renu E <renuenglehart@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 1:35 PM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: Support S3015

You don't often get email from renuenglehart@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Honorable Chair DiPalma and honorable members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Good afternoon - I am a town councilor for the town of East Greenwich. I am in support of S3015.

I am concerned by the arbitrary and ambiguous school funding formula that affects our community. East Greenwich is not just wealthy professionals; it also includes older persons on fixed incomes, young families concerned about affordability and young people just starting out. Our education funding has been cut without warning this year and periodically in the past several years. We have no way to raise revenue outside of property taxes.

Bill 3015 will help our town and similar towns better prepare financially for the future. We are disproportionately burdened by essential educational costs, including transportation, building

maintenance, special education, and teacher pension obligations. We are supporting fiscal responsibility, transparency, and strategic financial management and we seek to share the financial responsibility for education with the state.

Finally I would like to ask that the state use the large surplus that occurred this year to return the missing funds that were cut from our budget. That will help us lessen the burden on our residents already suffering the effects of the financial turmoil caused by the federal government's mismanagement of our economy.

Thank you for your work and your consideration.

Renu Englehart
member, East Greenwich Town Council

Jamie Plume

From: Ellie Butler <elliebut@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 12:47 PM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: Bill S3015

You don't often get email from elliebut@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Elizabeth Butler and I am a parent in Providence with a child in the public school system. I am writing because I care deeply about the quality of education my child receives, and I believe you do too. Rhode Island's school funding system is not working for families like mine. The way we fund our public schools is outdated and inequitable. Districts struggle to afford basic services. Students who need extra support, including English language learners and children with disabilities, aren't receiving adequate resources. And school administrators are forced to make major budget decisions without knowing their state funding until the last minute. Last year, the Blue Ribbon Commission released a comprehensive plan to fix this. Eighteen leaders from across Rhode Island — including educators, parents, municipal officials, and advocates — agreed on a path forward. Now it's time for the General Assembly to act. I am asking you to support Senate Bill 3015 that enacts the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendations into law. Every child in Rhode Island deserves a fair, well-funded education, and that starts with getting the funding formula right. As the Finance Committee, I know you care about the financial viability of this plan, and that has been accounted for. The Commission's recommendations are designed to be implemented in a phased, fiscally responsible way. Some elements — such as the state assuming legacy teacher pension liabilities — actually reduce long-term costs. Fairer funding also means smarter spending, with stronger accountability built in. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Butler
Providence, RI

Jamie Plume

From: Jasper Frank <jasper.l.frank@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 12:28 PM
To: Senate Finance
Cc: Sen. Zurier, Samuel; Rep. Kislak, Rebecca M.
Subject: Bill S3015

You don't often get email from jasper.l.frank@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Jasper Frank and I live in Providence. My son is a first grader in the Providence public school system. I am writing today to urge the committee to vote in strong support of **Bill S3015**, which would codify the critical recommendations of the Rhode Island Foundation's Blue Ribbon Commission to modernize our state's education funding formula.

Our current public school funding structure is outdated and fails to meet the actual operational needs of our districts. Please support Bill S3015 to build a fairer, more predictable, and fully accountable education system for all Rhode Island children.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Jasper Frank

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Jasper Frank
914.400.8811
jasper.l.frank@gmail.com

Jamie Plume

From: Gabriel Herczeg <gabe.herczeg@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 11:19 AM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: Please support SB 3015

You don't often get email from gabe.herczeg@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Finance Committee members,

My name is Gabriel Herczeg and my daughter Isabella is a student at Martin Luther King elementary school in Providence. I'm writing because it has come to my attention that the senate finance committee is soliciting testimony from constituents regarding Senate Bill 3015. I am asking you to support SB 3015 and enact the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendations into law. Every child in Rhode Island deserves a fair, well-funded education, and I believe this bill will help provide that.

Sincerely,
Gabe

--
Gabriel Herczeg

Jamie Plume

From: Teresa Fitzsenry <tfitzsy@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 11:14 AM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: Bill S3015

You don't often get email from tfitzsy@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Teresa Fitzsenry and I am a parent in Providence with a child in the public school system. I am writing because I care deeply about the quality of education my child receives, and I believe you do too.

Rhode Island's school funding system is not working for families like mine. The way we fund our public schools is outdated and inequitable. Districts struggle to afford basic services. Students who need extra support, including English language learners and children with disabilities, aren't receiving adequate resources. It is up to me to meet with the teachers and I need to push to find out what resources my child needs and how to obtain them. And school administrators are forced to make major budget decisions without knowing their state funding until the last minute. I am lucky that we have only 1 child and are a two parent working household with middle income, but many parents are struggling today with multiple children and multiple jobs. CHILDREN ARE BEING LEFT BEHIND in the no child left behind mindset we are in.

Last year, the Blue Ribbon Commission released a comprehensive plan to fix this. Eighteen leaders from across Rhode Island — including educators, parents, municipal officials, and advocates — agreed on a path forward. Now it's time for the General Assembly to act. I am asking you to support Senate Bill 3015 that enacts the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendations into law. Every child in Rhode Island deserves a fair, well-funded education, and that starts with getting the funding formula right. As the Finance Committee, I know you care about the financial viability of this plan, and that has been accounted for. The Commission's recommendations are designed to be implemented in a phased, fiscally responsible way. Some elements — such as the state assuming legacy teacher pension liabilities — actually reduce long-term costs. Fairer funding also means smarter spending, with stronger accountability built in. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Teresa Fitzsenry
Elhurst, Providence, RI

Jamie Plume

From: Emily Richards <emilybrownrichards@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 11:09 AM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: Support for Bill S3015

You don't often get email from emilybrownrichards@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Emily Richards and I am a parent in Providence with a child in the public school system. I am writing because I care deeply about the quality of education my child receives, and I believe you do too. Rhode Island's school funding system is not working for families like mine. The way we fund our public schools is outdated and inequitable. Districts struggle to afford basic services. Students who need extra support, including English language learners and children with disabilities, aren't receiving adequate resources. And school administrators are forced to make major budget decisions without knowing their state funding until the last minute. Last year, the Blue Ribbon Commission released a comprehensive plan to fix this. Eighteen leaders from across Rhode Island — including educators, parents, municipal officials, and advocates — agreed on a path forward. Now it's time for the General Assembly to act. I am asking you to support Senate Bill 3015 that enacts the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendations into law. Every child in Rhode Island deserves a fair, well-funded education, and that starts with getting the funding formula right. As the Finance Committee, I know you care about the financial viability of this plan, and that has been accounted for. The Commission's recommendations are designed to be implemented in a phased, fiscally responsible way. Some elements — such as the state assuming legacy teacher pension liabilities — actually reduce long-term costs. Fairer funding also means smarter spending, with stronger accountability built in. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Emily Richards
Providence

Jamie Plume

From: SLegislation
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 9:31 AM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: FW: Harwel Testimony in Support of S3015 in Senate Finance

From: Mara <mara.harwel@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2026 4:29 PM
To: SLegislation <slegislation@rilegislature.gov>
Cc: sam@samzurier.com; Rep. Kislak, Rebecca M. <rep-kislak@rilegislature.gov>
Subject: Harwel Testimony in Support of S3015 in Senate Finance

You don't often get email from mara.harwel@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am a parent of a Providence student and work in PK-12 education, including in education finance policy and implementation. I am writing because Rhode Island's school funding system is not working and is overdue for an update to account for the full and fair cost of an excellent education. The current year-to-year instability and overall inadequacy in many districts hurts our children, educators, and communities. School administrators are forced to make major budget decisions without knowing their state funding until the last minute.

I strongly support the comprehensive update proposed by the Blue Ribbon Commission. Please act quickly to pass House Bill 8351 and Senate Bill 3015 into law. We have a chance to get the funding formula right and the urgency is now, especially as we see statewide enrollment declines that will further disadvantage underfunded schools.

Thank you,
Mara Harwel
Providence, RI

Jamie Plume

From: Kate Hanley <kate@katehanley.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2026 5:45 PM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: Testimony in support of S3015

You don't often get email from kate@katehanley.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in support of S3015. I have had children in PPSD schools since 2013, and served as a member at large of the PTO at Vartan Gregorian for three years and president of the PTO at Nathan Bishop for two years.

I have witnessed first hand teachers and administrators scrambling to made do with fewer and fewer resources every year (with the exception of the two years after Covid, when they were able to hire crucial support staff that I also witnessed helping kids, teachers, and administrators so much--building relationships with kids, helping out with planning community events, and providing more adult hands that then helped bring behavior up).

Our funding formula has been broken for far too long, and with declining birth rates, the rise of charter schools, and withheld federal funds, the urgency to fix funding is sky high. Please, let's capitalize on the rare momentum we now have to make these changes.

Providence cannot expect to be destination for businesses and families if our schools are slowly being deprived of funds. Please, for the sake of today's and tomorrow's children, as well as short-term and long-term health as a city, lets give our school the support they need and pass this bill out of committee.

Respectfully and gratefully,
Kate Hanley

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Kate Hanley

Author, podcast host, writing collaborator, thought partner

Check out my writing workshop [Write Yourself Clean](#)

Follow me at katehanley.substack.com

Listen to the [Finding the Throughline](#) podcast

Jamie Plume

From: susan rohwer <susanrohwer@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 2:34 PM
To: Senate Finance
Cc: David Morales; Sen_Bell
Subject: Testimony in Support of Bill S3015 – Senate Finance Committee

You don't often get email from susanrohwer@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Susan Rohwer and I am a resident of Providence, Rhode Island. I am also the mom of a middle schooler in Providence Public Schools, a PLEE parent organizer and Parent Advisory Council member.

I am writing today to urge the committee to vote in strong support of **Bill S3015**, which would codify the critical recommendations of the Rhode Island Foundation's Blue Ribbon Commission to modernize our state's education funding formula.

Our current public school funding structure is outdated and fails to meet the actual operational needs of our districts. For too long, basic systemic expenses like student transportation, early childhood screenings, and emergency building maintenance have fallen squarely on local municipalities, forcing school systems into chronic crisis budgeting and leading to detrimental classroom budget cuts.

Our students cannot wait any longer for a modernized funding system that accurately reflects their needs. Please support Bill S3015 to build a fairer, more predictable, and fully accountable education system for all Rhode Island children.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Susan Rohwer
Providence, RI
Parents Leading for Equity in Education (PLEE) organizer
Parent Advisory Council Member

--

Susan A. Rohwer

p: 6175296188 | e: susanrohwer@gmail.com

Jamie Plume

From: Coelho, Andrea <acoelho@egsd.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 2:41 PM
To: Senate Finance
Cc: bob@robertecraven.com
Subject: Support of Bill S3015

You don't often get email from acoelho@egsd.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi! My name is Andrea Coelho and I am a resident of North Kingstown, RI. I also work as a school social worker in East Greenwich, RI. I am writing today to urge the committee to vote in strong support of **Bill S3015**, which would codify the critical recommendations of the Rhode Island Foundation's Blue Ribbon Commission to modernize our state's education funding formula.

Our current public school funding structure is outdated and fails to meet the actual operational needs of our districts. As well as the actual personnel needs to keep children learning, safe, and met with the IEP services they are entitled to by law.

Our students cannot wait any longer for a modernized funding system that accurately reflects their needs. I see this daily as a massive problem in my work as a social worker in our state. What the school(s) are trying to do to best serve children, with minimal resources, is disheartening at best.

Please support Bill S3015 to build a fairer, more predictable, and fully accountable education system for all Rhode Island children.

Thank you for your time and your continued service to our state.

Sincerely,
Andrea Coelho

East Greenwich, RI (work within the public schools)
North Kingstown, RI (send my children to public schools)

--
Andrea Coelho, LICSW
District Social Worker
East Greenwich Public Schools
401. 398. 1356

Good afternoon members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Lounay Oliver-Camacho. I am a Sophomore at Mount Pleasant High School, and a youth advocate at Young Voices. I am here today to ask you to pass Bill S3015. This bill would fund the complete cost of education, direct more resources to economically disadvantaged students, make local contributions required, and enforce requirements of transparency about the way funding is used. Investing in the education system is important, you are investing in the next generation ten times over. I personally value education greatly because it is my way out to have a better life.

Since I was young I always enjoyed learning. For the justification it gave me. Even when it no longer served that at times. I was grateful because I knew if I kept trying someday all of it would be worth it. For free college, a career that would last me a long time, and fund my retirement. As I grew I began to want more things to help me get through school and opportunities available to me. Whatever was the best and would get me the furthest. Inter-district academic Programs, scholarships, free drivers ed, safe schools.

The more I searched this came up to be opportunities from non-profits or interpersonal connects. I continue to wonder till this day. Why are these opportunities not given or deserved? I find them to be more accessible in certain communities. I wanted and still want more STEM, arts, and more hands-on learning opportunities. This bill would allow for that in more public schools.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to me.

Jamie Plume

From: Arlette Hidalgo <hidalgoarlette23@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 2:47 PM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: Testimony in Strong support for S-3015 (Rhode Island Education Funding and Accountability Act)

You don't often get email from hidalgoarlette23@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Finance,

My name is Arlette Hidalgo. I am a special educator, advocate, and founder of Apoyo Especial con Arlette, where I support Spanish-speaking families navigating special education and early childhood systems.

I am here today in support of the proposed changes to Rhode Island's education funding formula, particularly the investments in early childhood special education services.

As someone who works directly with families, I have seen firsthand how difficult it can be for parents to get answers when they are concerned about their child's development. Too many families are told to "wait and see," especially families in communities with fewer resources, language barriers, or limited access to information. By the time many children are finally evaluated, valuable early intervention time has already been lost.

The reality is that where a child lives should not determine whether they receive a developmental screening, an evaluation, or access to services. Yet we know that children in higher poverty communities are less likely to receive screenings and services, even when the need exists.

That is why funding a statewide developmental screening system is so important. Every child deserves the opportunity to be identified early and receive support as soon as possible.

I also strongly support including preschool children receiving special education services in community settings and RI Pre-K programs within the funding formula. Families should not have to choose between inclusion and access to services. Children with disabilities deserve to learn alongside their peers in high-quality early childhood environments with the supports they need to succeed.

In addition, creating a unified early childhood education and care system is critical. Early childhood is not separate from education it is the foundation of education. When we invest in children before kindergarten, we strengthen outcomes not only for students and families, but for entire school systems and communities.

As both an educator and advocate, I can tell you that families are asking for support, clarity, and access. These investments would move Rhode Island toward a more equitable system where children are identified earlier, supported earlier, and given a stronger start.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to Rhode Island's children and families.

Best,

Arlette Hidalgo

Providence, RI

Member of Parents Leading for Educational Equity and Founder of Apoyo Especial con Arlette