

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing in support of S3083 and continued funding for the Rhode Island Auditory Oral Program (RIAOP).

I am a Teacher of the Deaf working in Providence Public Schools, and in my professional experience I have seen firsthand the impact that specialized listening and spoken language services can have for students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

RIAOP is the only auditory oral program in Rhode Island. For many students and families, it provides critical access to specialized instruction, trained staff, and support that cannot easily be replicated within general education settings alone. These services directly impact students' communication development, educational access, self-advocacy skills, and long-term success.

Without continued funding, students currently enrolled in the program, as well as those receiving outreach services across the state, risk losing access to an important educational option.

I respectfully urge your support of S3083 and continued funding for the Rhode Island Auditory Oral Program.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alicia Aceto

Teacher of the Deaf

Providence Public Schools