

S3083-PRO

May 19, 2026

Dear Chair DiPalma and Members of the Senate Committee on Finance,

My name is Mary Torres and I am a resident of Charlestown and a life long resident of Rhode Island. I am writing in support of **S3083: Making an Appropriation to the Rhode Island Auditory Program.**

I have worked with children in this program for the past 19 years. My job as an Oral Language Facilitator entails supporting children in a mainstream classroom who are using hearing aids and cochlear implants to access their education. The parents of these children have made a choice to raise their Deaf and Hard of Hearing (D/HH) children in a world where they can now access sound and spoken language with the assistance of hearing technology. This program has allowed D/HH students to be integrated into a regular educational setting with students with normal hearing. Our goal is to support them within our program until they are ready to return to their district, where they will be independent.

It is crucial that this program continues to support D/HH students seeking an education using spoken language as opposed to being educated with sign language. It is of utmost importance that we have equity in education for all students. I am asking for your support in approving **S3083: Making an Appropriation to the Rhode Island Auditory Program.** It truly will make a huge impact for many children in this state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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