

Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill No. 7123

House Finance Committee Hearing on May 9, 2024.

My name is Lisa Jones. I am a registered voter and I live in Providence, Rhode Island. I stand in support of the budget proposals listed in Senate Bill No. 7123.

I support Child Care for Early Educators because child care needs to be available and affordable for all folks that work outside the home. Early educators are often times underpaid and underappreciated. Anything we can do to support those that provide vital services that help support our children should be done. Our country as a whole does not value these services. The wages are bad and it's a thankless job but it's one of the most important jobs out there: teaching children social skills, early learning skills, cooperation, communication and more. Let's help early educators. Let's make this program permanent, remove the family wage cap and include staff working in Early Intervention in this program. These folks are educators too. They're also underpaid and underappreciated and vital members of our community.

Let's do this.

Respectfully,

Lisa Jones