

Chris O'Brien

From: Amanda Peavey <apeavey@wrwc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 10:00 AM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: House Bill No. 8047

To: House Finance Committee
House Bill No.8047 RELATING TO EDUCATION -- BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES IN
OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME
From: Amanda Peavey
RE: Testimony in Strong Support of House Bill No.8047
Date: May 9, 2024

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Amanda Peavey, Education Director for the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council. I am writing in support of HB.8047 introduced by Rep Shallcross Smith, which provides \$4 million to support after school and school vacation, summer learning workforce development programs for K-12 students with annual reports on status and programs.

This bill is important to me because (*talk about your own experiences or knowledge with OST*):

- My team and I have been able to give quality environmental education to students throughout the Woonasquatucket River Watershed.
- We are able to connect with students to build passion, compassion, respect and enthusiasm for our environment in order to protect it.
- We are able to empower students to become the next environmental stewards.

We need this to pass this bill because (*how can it support OST*).

- It will allow students to build wonderful skills such as Social Emotional Learning and mental health along with explorative, environmental education.
- There are so many students who learn in different ways that the flexibility that an OST program provides better serves the variety of learners.
- It gives students the chance to connect with their local environment and community.

Currently, 59,000 local youth are without out-school time program opportunities. It is critical that we invest in Out-of-School-Time so that every student has access to comprehensive and effective programming during the afterschool and summer learning.

I really hope you consider how important this is to me. We are depending on you to make the right decision.

Thank you for your time and attention today.

Amanda Peavey
45 Eagle St. Suite 202 Providence, RI 02909

--

Amanda Peavey

apeavey@wrwc.org

Education Director

Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council