

Chris O'Brien

From: Kim Almeida <kalmeida@rhodeislandspe.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 12:35 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Support for H7771

To the Members of the Finance Committee:

I am writing to express my own support for H7771, "Making an Appropriation of \$500,000 to the Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner for the Rhode Island School for Progressive Education,". Your decision this evening represents an opportunity for Rhode Island to further define itself as a state that considers outstanding, quality public education a human right.

This is an opportunity to show that Rhode Island is willing to take bold steps to strengthen public K-12 education and close staggering equity and achievement gaps, specifically for our students of color and students living in urban, high-poverty communities. RISPE's express mission is to close equity gaps in the classroom where current policy perpetuates systemic racism and inequity. Our public school districts desperately want and need a pipeline of teachers of color championing anti-racist, transformational curriculum and teacher training because they've seen the success of similar programs in cities like Boston, New York, and Chicago. RISPE has the potential to change the lives of chronically underserved children in Rhode Island for the better and to create opportunities for aspiring teachers of color to enter the field. In collaboration with Rhode Island's urban public schools, RISPE will diversify the educator workforce, close equity gaps, and further our shared goal of ensuring every student in Rhode Island, no matter their race or what neighborhood they live in, has access to a high-quality public education.

Rhode Island's children are relying on us to improve our public schools. The education our kids receive in public schools will be a determining factor in their success or failure. Your support for H7771, "Making an Appropriation of \$500,000 to the Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner for the Rhode Island School for Progressive Education," proves your willingness to take bold action to achieve this goal.

Sincerely,

Kim Almeida

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Kim Almeida | COORDINATOR of CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

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