

Chris O'Brien

From: Melanie Griffith <mgriffith@rhodeislandspe.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 11:29 AM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Fwd: Support of bill H7771

Hello,

Please find below a letter of support for H7771.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Megan Mainzer <mmainzer@mpsri.net>
Date: Tue, May 14, 2024 at 9:58 AM
Subject: Support of bill H7771
To: <mgriffith@rhodeislandspe.com>

Good morning Melanie Griffith,

I am writing to express my support of the bill of H7771, "Making an Appropriation of \$500,000 to the Rhode Island Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner for the Rhode Island School for Progressive Education," and I am asking you to do the same.

Continuing to fund RISPE beyond the 2024 fiscal year is the obvious right choice for Rhode Island. The decision before you as it pertains to this specific piece of legislation represents an opportunity for Rhode Island to further define itself as a state that considers public education of an outstanding quality 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.

I have had the experience of working with RISPE on their MLL endorsement program for educators in Middletown.

As Rhode Island communities grow in diversity we see value in growing and developing that diversity in the field of educators and paraeducators. We want to create an educational community staff that represents our students and families and where students can see themselves in the teachers around them. We need more teachers of color and feel that RISPE is the right organization to work on this mission.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Megan

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Megan Mainzer
she/her/hers
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"No one is born fully-formed: it is through self-experience in the world that we become what we are." Paulo Freire