



Alex Moore, Political Director

SEIU 1199NE

319 Broadway

Providence, RI 02909

May 1, 2024

**Subject: Support for H-7338: Implementing a Surtax to Fund Essential Services**

Dear Members of the House Committee on Finance,

On behalf of SEIU 1199NE, representing thousands of dedicated healthcare, service workers, and child care providers across Rhode Island, I am writing to express our strong support for Bill H-7338. This bill proposes a crucial fiscal adjustment by introducing a 3% personal income surtax on taxable incomes over one million dollars, with revenues earmarked for critical public services.

The initiative to channel surtax revenue into a restricted receipts account specifically allocated for enhancing child care and early learning programs, quality public education, affordable higher education, and the maintenance of roads, bridges, and public transportation is a commendable strategy. It not only addresses income inequality but also directly invests in the state's infrastructure and the well-being of its citizens.

The implementation of this surtax would represent a progressive step towards ensuring that those with the highest incomes contribute fairly to the societal benefits from which they gain. Moreover, the allocation of these funds would significantly benefit sectors that are crucial for the socio-economic development of Rhode Island. For example, enhancing funding for child care and early learning would directly impact many of our members, improving their work conditions and the quality of care provided to children.

Investing in public education and affordable higher education is equally vital, as it ensures that future generations have access to the resources they need to succeed. Furthermore, maintaining and improving our roads, bridges, and public transportation systems not only ensures safety but also enhances the efficiency and quality of daily commutes for all Rhode Islanders, including our members.

The provision that requires the Division of Taxation to report annually on the collection and distribution of the surtax ensures transparency and accountability, aligning with our values of responsible governance and public trust.

We urge you to support the passage of H-7338 as a commitment to equitable taxation and the enhancement of vital public services that benefit all sectors of our community.

Thank you for considering our perspective on this important issue. We look forward to the positive impact this legislation will have on the quality of life in Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Alex Moore