

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Roger Richards <rprjr2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2024 9:55 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee; Rep. Abney, Marvin L.; Rep. Serpa, Patricia A.; Rep. Diaz, Grace; Rep. Shanley, Evan P.; Rep. Vella-Wilkinson, Camille; Rep. Solomon, Joseph J. Jr.; Rep. Azzinaro, Samuel A.; Rep. Edwards, John G.; Rep. Ackerman, Mia A.; Rep. Slater, Scott; Rep. Baginski, Jacquelyn M.; Rep. Biah, Nathan W.; Rep. Hull, Raymond A.; Rep. O'Brien, William W.; Rep. Tanzi, Teresa A.; Rep. Nardone, George A.; Rep. Cortvriend, Terri-Denise; Rep. Alzate, Karen; Rep. Marszalkowski, Alex; Rep. Fellela, Deborah A.; Rep. Fenton-Fung, Barbara Ann; Rep. Casey, Stephen M.; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Place, David J.; Rep. Lombardi, John J.  
**Subject:** Written Testimony in Support of House Bill No. 8149

Dear Chairman Abney and House Finance Committee,

I am writing this testimony for my support of House Bill No. 8149 , AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES -- RETIREMENT SYSTEM -- ADMINISTRATION (Reduces the number of years from five (5) to three (3), when calculating for retirement purposes, the average of the highest consecutive years of compensation, for state and municipal employees.)

I have been employed by the state of RI since 2012 and plan to work until I am eligible to retire. I took this job knowing that the new retirement system would not be as good as the old system and I have accepted that. I am in full support of any new changes that will help our current employees end up getting a better outcome than what is currently in place. I want to thank all of the representatives for taking their time to draft this bill. I urge you all to move this bill to the floor for a vote this session.

I would like to highlight one major point on why this bill should pass. As a retired military member who networks with other RI veterans. I have heard so many veterans tell me that they would never work for the state or become a public school teacher since they see the current retirement system is messed up. Many have said if they would at least change the average years from five to three years just the military does for pensions, they would consider it. As you know with the recent elimination of the state tax on military retirements and the population that retire from the Newport Navy Base. We are starting to see more military members stay in RI. Let's take the next step and try to attract some of this great talent to fill vacancies. Some of retired military members have years of experience and leadership skills, they might help prevent future mistakes like we have had in the past.

Please do everything possible to move this bill forward so the house can pass it during this session.

V/R

Roger Richards, USAF ( Ret.)  
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