



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-1196
401-222-2080

Gina M. Raimondo
Governor

January 3, 2018

The Honorable Nicholas Mattiello
Speaker of the House
Rhode Island House of Representatives
Room 323, Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

The Honorable Dominick Ruggerio
President of the Senate
Rhode Island Senate
Room 318, Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Speaker Mattiello and President Ruggerio:

On behalf of Governor Gina Raimondo, I formally request permission to use the House Chamber on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. for the Governor to present her State of the State address.

Consistent with discussions between our offices and in accordance with the provisions of Section 35-3-7(a) of the Rhode Island General Laws, the Governor intends to submit her budget recommendation, i.e., her plan of estimated revenues and proposed expenditures, for FY 2019 on Thursday, January 18, 2018.

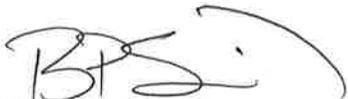
The Governor continues to be dedicated to the strong partnership she shares with you and your colleagues in the General Assembly. The State of Rhode Island has benefited measurably from that partnership – and your collective leadership – over the last three years. For much of 2014, Rhode Island's unemployment rate was the highest in America. Today, it is in line with the national average and thousands of new jobs have been created by Rhode Island companies.

Over the course of 2017, our state saw significant progress. Rhode Island began a phase out of the car tax, giving relief to middle class Rhode Islanders, and increased the minimum wage. Working together, the legislature passed the Governor's Rhode Island Promise Scholarship proposal, making Rhode Island the first state on the East Coast to offer residents tuition-free access to post-secondary education. Because of this scholarship, enrollment at the Community College of Rhode Island is up 47 percent over last year.

Rhode Island is stronger today than it was four years ago, but Governor Raimondo recognizes that many families are not where they want to be. She remains committed to working with the House and the Senate to protect the progress our state has made in recent years and ensure that every Rhode Island family has economic security. She looks forward to discussing her priorities with the General Assembly and the people of Rhode Island.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BPS', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Brett P. Smiley
Chief of Staff

cc: Mr. Leo Skenyon, Chief of Staff, Speaker of the House
Mr. Stephen Iannazzi, Chief of Staff, Senate President