



The Rhode Island State
Council of Churches

Social Justice Legislative Campaign

Part 3: School meals

Faith-Based Witness Communications

EMAIL

LETTER

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

IN-PERSON TESTIMONY

Send an
email to:

Your Senator

President of
the Senate

Send an
email to:

Your
Representative

Speaker of the
House

When to
send an
email:

The Rhode Island General
Assembly is in session
each year from January
till June.

When to
send an
email:

When bill is filed.

When a bill is heard in
committee.

In May or June, if bill is
not called to the floor.

Format

For the Senate Bill

Subject line should read:

“In favor of Bill S 2663”

Body of the e-mail should be two or three sentences.

If you have a relationship with the legislator, it could be longer.

Format

For the House Bill

Subject line should read:

“In favor of bill H 7793”

Body of the e-mail should be two or three sentences.

If you have a relationship with the legislator, it could be longer.

Sample Email

Subject: In favor of S 2663

Dear Senator (Your Senator),

I am a [your town] resident and a constituent. I am writing in favor of the “Healthy School Meals for All” bill (S 2663).

Providing free meals for all schoolchildren is a compassionate and practical response to a real and ongoing need. When children are nourished, they are better able to learn.

I encourage passage of this bill.

Respectfully,

Email to a Senator who is a co-sponsor of bill S2663

Subject: In favor of S 2663

Dear Senator (Name),,

Thank you for co-sponsoring the “Healthy Meals for All Children” bill.

I am a [your town] resident and a constituent. Providing free meals for all schoolchildren is a compassionate and practical response to a real and ongoing need. When children are nourished, they are better able to learn. Universal meals protects children’s dignity by ensuring that no one is singled out or stigmatized. Thank you again for your support for children.

Respectfully,

A large light purple circle on the left side of the slide. A smaller dark purple circle is positioned at the bottom left of the large circle. In the top right corner, there are several dark purple curved lines and arcs of varying lengths.

Bill Sponsors and Text

Representatives sponsoring H 7793, “Healthy School Meals For All Children”

The bill sponsors along with the bill text can be found on the RI Legislature's website:

<https://status.rilegislature.gov/>

Letter Writing Format

If you can, use congregational stationery.

Put in Subject line: Re: Passage of S 2663

Body:

Introduction (who you are).

Three or four sentences with a moral/religious argument.

Or

Three or four sentences with a personal story.

Or

If your legislator knows you, you could write more.

Ask Legislator to support the bill.

Your name

Title



Letter of Support

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Sample Letter 1:

(AI generated)

Dear Senator,

I am writing to urge your support for the **Reproductive Freedom and Gender-Affirming Care Health Data Privacy Act (S 2129)**.

Health care depends on trust. Patients must feel confident that deeply personal medical information—particularly related to reproductive and gender-affirming care—will remain private and protected. When individuals fear that their health data could be disclosed or misused, they may delay or avoid care, putting their health and well-being at risk.

In these areas of care, inadequate data privacy carries especially serious consequences. Medical records can expose patients, families, and clinicians to stigma, discrimination, or legal and social harm. Decisions that belong within the patient-provider relationship become vulnerable to outside scrutiny when privacy protections are weak, undermining personal autonomy and sound medical judgment.

Strong health data privacy safeguards are not about politics; they are about dignity, safety, and the freedom to seek lawful medical care without fear. I encourage you to support this legislation and help ensure that personal health information cannot be weaponized against those seeking care.

Thank you for your service and for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



[Your Name]

Committee Hearing

Bills are first sent to Committee for a hearing.

The Website <https://www.rilegislature.gov>

has a great deal of information including who is on the Committee.

S 2663 & H 7793 will be heard in the Finance Committees of each Chamber.

Written Testimony

Written testimony may be submitted to the Committee holding the hearing. It should be submitted the Clerk of the Committee ahead of the time of the hearing or hand delivered at the time of the Committee hearing.

Instruction on submission is listed on the Committee agenda that is posted on the RI legislature website [Rilegislature.gov](https://www.rilegislature.gov) The website has a great deal of information including who is on the Committee, a copy of the bill, and the bill sponsors.

In Person Testimony

At the hearing, bill sponsors are invited to speak first.

General officers are next if they are co-sponsoring the bill. Officers include the Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General and Treasurer.

Sometimes experts in the field are invited to testify.

General public speakers are next and are typically limited to two or three minutes. The limit is often strictly held. A speaker can be cut off by the Chair.

In Person Testimony Process

There are sign-in sheets available before the hearing begins.

After your testimony is completed, Senators and Representatives may ask you questions.

Senate rules allow Senators to make a comment instead of asking a question. You cannot reply, unless the Chair allows it.

Committee Hearing

All bills that are heard
are held for further
study.

Committee members do
not vote on the bill on
the day of the hearing.

In-person Special Events

Rally – Press Event

RISCC Lobby Day

In-person chat on House/Senate Floor

Constituent Meeting

Rally & Press Event

Special Events are often held in conjunction with other groups who share our interest.

Showing up at the State House for a Rally or Press Event is an easy way to demonstrate support.

How do I find my State Senator and Representative?

Go to Secretary of State's
Website: <https://www.sos.ri.gov>

Click on **Elections and voting**

Click on **Find your local officials**

Click on **Fill in your residence information**

Step 1: Enter your residence zip code.

Step 2: Select your city/town from the
dropdown list.

Step 3: Enter your street number.

Step 4: Name of your street.

Your Public Officials will be displayed.

How do I
find a copy
of a bill?

Go to RI State Legislature Website:
<https://www.rilegislature.gov>

Click on **Bills and Laws** (Top of Page)

Click on **Bill Status/History** (This will also give you information about where the bill is in the legislative process.)

Click on **Bill Text**

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Thank you!

For more information, please visit the
Council of Churches Website:

<https://www.councilofchurchesri.org>

For questions about the “Healthy
School Meal for All” Bill, please email:

Rev. Eugene Dyszlewski

socialjustice@councilofchurchesri.org