

Key Funding Components of the HEROES Act for Rhode Island

The coronavirus has wreaked unprecedented havoc on the lives of the American people. Our economy, our schools, our jobs and our way of life have been disrupted. To recover from this pandemic, safely reopen our schools, and allow people to safely return to work to restore our economy, we must maintain critical state and local services, such as law enforcement, education and healthcare.

We need Rhode Island's senators to support critical pieces of the House-passed HEROES Act in the next COVID-19 relief bill:

- At least \$100 billion for public K-12 education and public colleges and universities to reopen safely and to account for the unanticipated, increased costs of operating schools in a COVID-19 environment. Reopening schools and colleges while keeping students and staff safe will take more, not fewer, resources, especially as students will return to school with significant academic, social and emotional needs. **Rhode Island would receive \$263 million in education funding if the Senate passed the HEROES Act. The K-12 portion of these funds would provide Rhode Island \$170.8 million. That's enough to save or restore the positions of 792 teachers, 187 teacher aides and 493 other workers.**
- \$500 billion for state aid and \$350 billion for local aid that funds the services that retain our EMTs, public safety officers, teachers and school workers, sanitation workers, homecare providers, and other frontline public service workers who are essential to fighting this pandemic and reopening our economy. They have been there for us, and they are a critical part of our recovery, as well as keeping our communities safe and livable. **Rhode Island would receive \$3.6 billion in direct aid to states and \$1.7 billion in direct aid to local governments if the Senate passed the HEROES Act.**
- \$175 billion for the health and safety of our frontline providers and the American people. We need widespread testing, contact tracing, adequate PPE supplies, relief for affected families, and expansion of Medicaid to ensure that vulnerable populations are treated to stop the spread of the virus. **Rhode Island would receive \$520 million in Medicaid funding through the HEROES Act.**

Our states, cities, towns and public schools continue to anchor America's response to the COVID-19 pandemic by keeping communities safe, limiting the spread of the virus and supporting our children. The Senate must act now to fund these essential services that are at the heart of our recovery and our ability to reopen our economy. Eighty-four

percent of Americans support increased federal aid to protect healthcare, education, safety and other services and keep frontline workers on the job.