# **Sample Letter to State Officials – RI**

**Immigration**

**This is a sample letter template you can use to contact your state elected officials to urge them to support students and institutions in considering access opportunities for immigrants in higher education. Complete the letter by filling in the information specific to you and providing an example or two of how students you work with benefit from state-level inclusivity investments in higher education to personalize your letter. You do not need to name specific students or indicate the institution you work at. You may also make other changes to the text in the template, to add or remove specific information and tailor your letter to focus on the issues most important to you.**

[date]

Dear [title] [last name]:

As your constituent living in [your city], I am writing today to ask you to support college students in Rhode Island and across the country.

As a student affairs professional, I see first-hand how state-level policies support students. Student affairs is a critical component of the higher education experience, collaborating with colleagues across institutions of higher education to offer students valuable learning opportunities, meaningful social engagements, and safe and inclusive environments.

[Insert personal statement or story.]

On behalf of our students, I urge you to work with your legislative colleagues to support in-state financial aid options for immigrants. Please join the 17 other states in our nation that have passed state level policy in support of in-state tuition for undocumented students. Efforts to increase college enrollment for marginalized students may positively affect the wealth of the state and our nation and support efforts to close the gap in high school graduation and college attainment rates. Please work to help pass RI SB 466, which would create in-state tuition options for eligible undocumented students at state universities.

The future of our nation’s knowledge economy relies on a college-educated workforce. I am relying on you to do what is right both for Rhode Island’s students and our nation as a whole.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. I look forward to hearing from you about your plans to support our students and institutions of higher education.

Sincerely,

[name]

[address, including zip code]