



Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns

Statement in Support of Governor's Veto of H5593 Sub A
Brian M. Daniels, Executive Director
July 19, 2017

The League of Cities and Towns strongly supports Governor Raimondo's decision to veto the perpetual contracts bill. This legislation would have tied the hands of local officials and made it harder to negotiate in the best interests of taxpayers.

Municipal leaders appreciate and support the work that municipal employees and teachers do for Rhode Island communities, and local officials have sought to maintain good relations during contract negotiations. Unfortunately, automatic contract extension would only disrupt that productive relationship. Extending a collective bargaining agreement automatically and indefinitely after its expiration date would provide greater leverage for employees at the expense of municipal officials and taxpayers. Employees would have no incentive to make concessions on wages, health care or work conditions.

Rhode Island already has one of the highest property tax burdens in the country. In recent years, municipal leaders have worked to control property tax growth, but this misguided legislation would have undermined those efforts. We would like to thank Governor Raimondo for standing up for cities and towns and Rhode Island taxpayers by vetoing the perpetual contracts bill.