

Lisa Cataldi

From: Andrew Poyant <andrewpoyant@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 9:49 PM
To: House Education Committee
Subject: House Bills 5934 and 5935

Hi I'm Andrew Poyant, a father of three and a resident of Providence. I was a member of the Community Design Team which provided input in the Providence Public School District's turnaround plan.

I am in support of both House Bills 5934 and 5935. Bill 5934 addresses the need for high speed internet for students throughout the state. While the pandemic showed just how necessary internet access is for learning as many students had to learn from home at some point throughout the year, internet access was an education equity issue prior to COVID and will continue to be after unless we address it. Access to the internet is vital to complete school assignments.

Bill 5935 which will improve air quality is also very important. There are 24 Providence Public Schools within 1,000 feet of a major road. The recommended distance for new schools is at least 1,500 feet from major roads. Many of our schools have high rates of black carbon and nitrogen dioxide. Providence has some of the highest asthma rates in the country. One of the top reasons for students being absent is asthma attacks. With students spending a significant amount of their time within school buildings, improving the air quality within them can improve their health, which is also connected to their education outcomes.

Please support both of these bills and move them out of committee.

Thank you,
Andrew Poyant