

Lisa Cataldi

From: g.malian@verizon.net
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2022 5:06 PM
To: House Education Committee; Rep. Shekarchi, K Joseph; Rep. McNamara, Joseph M.; Rep. Phillips, Robert D.; Rep. Ackerman, Mia A.; Rep. Alzate, Karen; Rep. Amore, Gregg; Rep. Azzinaro, Samuel A.; Rep. Bennett, David A.; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Blazejewski, Christopher R.; Rep. Cassar, Liana M.; Rep. Donovan, Susan R; Rep. Giraldo, Joshua J.; Rep. Roberts, Sherry; Rep. Speakman, June; Rep. Ajello, Edith H.; Rep. Blazejewski, Christopher R.; Rep. Biah, Nathan W.; Rep. Kislak, Rebecca M.; Rep. Ranglin-Vassell, Marcia R.; Rep. Hull, Raymond A.; Rep. Morales, David; Rep. Lombardi, John J.; Rep. Williams, Anastasia P.; Rep. Slater, Scott; Rep. Diaz, Grace; Rep. Perez, Ramon A.; Rep. Lima, Charlene

Dear Representatives,

My name is George Malian and I am a 21 year educator of student with severe/profound differently abled students. I'm writing today to express my support for [House Bill 8094](#) and for its prompt passage in the House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare. We need more community input in decision-making for PPSD. We need RIDE to be transparent and held accountable in its handling of our public schools, for the good of our kids.

H8094 provides a number of crucial ways for the State and RIDE to be held accountable to the community and parents of PPSD. Currently, the Crowley Act only contains a single paragraph and has essentially no accountability mechanisms or avenues for community involvement. Providence families deserve better. They deserve to have an opportunity for substantive involvement in their kids' education.

Specifically, this bill does a great job of delegating power back to community institutions like the Providence School Board. This would allow a direct avenue for a wide range of community members to take part in processes affecting themselves and their families and children. This bill is a crucial first step that will allow us to focus on the countless other pressing issues our students and families face: with real community input, we can all work together to develop the best solutions that help our most marginalized kids.

We must keep the best interest of our students as our first and foremost priority. I believe that the avenue to achieve this is by providing transparency within the community and to use a common term from my special education classroom, inclusivity. Success can be achieved, but to do so, we must ALL work together and participate in the design, delivery, and monitoring of education as a shared responsibility.

Thank you, and please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
George Malian
Email: george.malian@ppsd.org