



Angélica Infante-Green
Commissioner

State of Rhode Island
DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

February 12, 2025

The Honorable Rep. Joseph M. McNamara
Chair, Rhode Island House Committee on Education
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Oppose as drafted, House Bill 5216

Dear Chair McNamara:

Please accept this letter of concern regarding H5216 – Pesticide Control. This legislation restricts application of pesticides and rodenticides at schools and childcare centers, as well as requiring schools to provide copies of notice to parents and guardians. Unfortunately, **as currently drafted, RIDE must oppose the current H5216.**

The legislation places an administrative requirement to communicate with districts on the law and the submission of pesticide management plans to RIDE. The agency has substantially restricted staff capacity in order to meet the requirements outlined and to provide feedback and/or oversight to the plans.

Further still, there is already a requirement for the Pesticide Management Plan for every district. District leaders attest that the plan is up to date in the RIDE Annual School Health Report. School Committee policies need to be available on the district website where they can be accessed by students, families and the community at large. RIDE can also access those policies there.

Thank you for your consideration of this feedback. Please do not hesitate to reach out if there are further questions or additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Reilly-Chammat, Ed.D.
Director, Office of School Health and Wellness

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Education
The Honorable Lauren Carson
Nicole McCarty, Esq. Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House

