

H 5602

We are asking for the committee to respectfully pass bill #H5602 today. In 1994 I was hired by Providence and have been employed for the past 31 years. At the date of my hire APE was not a required certification. Some of the Rhode Island colleges included APE in their programs and was labeled as an endorsement. The number of students requiring APE did not dictate that all PE personnel have this endorsement. In 2007, it was suggested that each school have one APE endorsed teacher, so that the building was in compliance and was able to service any students who required APE. Also, the district provided 2 APE certified teachers to travel to schools who needed any further assistance with compliance. I was hired at RWMS in 2009 for a position that required an APE certification. I have worked at RWMS from 2009 to 2024 when I received a displacement letter stating I was not qualified for lack of the APE certification. The district required all displaced teachers to contact Rhode Island College for a credential review and granted emergency certification based on a specific credential pathway chosen by Rhode Island College. The pathway provides a hardship for many of us who have been teaching for many years. I have completed all Professional Development required by Providence and have amassed over 250 hours of PLU's offered by the district. All new teachers enrolled in Rhode Island PE/Health programs will graduate with this new APE. The fact that less than 2 % of currently enrolled students at PPSD, along with district providing additional support where needed, and 31 years of service, we are asking that the bill be passed, and we are able to finish our career and retire with dignity. Thank you for your time.

Jeffrey Cameron

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Jeffrey Cameron', with a large loop at the start and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.