

Testimony in Opposition of 2025 -- H6058

Submitted to the House Education Committee

Dear Chair McNamara and Members of the Committee,

My name is Chiara Deltito-Sharrott, and I am the Executive Director of the Rhode Island League of Charter Public Schools. I am providing testimony to express strong opposition to House Bill 6058.

HB 6058 would limit students' ability to access high quality coursework at our state's private institutions of higher education. Right now, the state's dual enrollment system, which leads the nation in its success, is the only avenue for many students to access high quality college level programming during high school. These courses not only expose our students to future career pathways but also reduce the overly burdensome cost of a college education.

While there are fantastic opportunities available for dual-enrollment at our state's public institutions, it would be a disservice to students to say that these were the only courses worth allowing access to. Rhode Island is known for its fantastic post-secondary education partners, whose missions are as diverse as our state's student population. In fact, many of the members of this committee chose to study at these legitimate and prestigious schools such as Providence College and Brown University. Moreover, some of these schools are offering both programs and pathways that our public institutions simply are not. For example, both Johnson and Wales and the New England Institute of Technology both announced Bachelor degree programs that can be completed in three years or less. This makes credits earned during high school even more valuable to setting up students towards a trajectory of success.

At the RI League of Charter Public Schools, we are proud of the partnerships that we have built with both public and private institutions that allow for our students to gain a head start on their post-secondary education. For example, many students across the state's charter public schools take advantage of New England Tech's early college programming and unique partnerships like that of Brown University and Highlander Charter School have been created as a result of this enabling legislation.

We hope that you will continue to see dual-enrollment opportunities with local universities as an investment in both our young people and our economy. Please help Rhode Island to remain



a leader in advancing college access, especially for those students who may not have considered a college trajectory had they not gained exposure to high quality dual-enrollment programs during their high school years.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Chiara Deltito-Sharrott
Executive Director of Rhode Island League of Charter Public Schools