



Association of Independent  
Colleges & Universities of Rhode Island

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April 10, 2025

The Honorable Joseph McNamara  
Chair, House Committee on Education  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI, 02903

Dear Chairman McNamara,

On behalf of the member institutions of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of *Rhode Island*, I am writing to express our **opposition to House Bill 6058**.

This legislation would alter the references of dual enrollment by using the phrase "public higher education institution," rather than "institution of higher learning." This act would directly exclude Rhode Island's secondary school students from meaningful dual enrollment opportunities from AICU *Rhode Island's* member institutions.

The Prepare RI Dual Enrollment Fund allows students in high school to take college-level courses at no cost to the student. The Prepare RI program offers courses on their platform, Enroll RI, called the All-Course Network (ACN). The ACN offers courses from *both* public and private institutions, such as AICU *Rhode Island* members, Johnson & Wales University, New England Institute of Technology, Rhode Island School of Design, and Roger Williams University. Courses offered through Enroll RI by independent higher education institutions allow students, through their local school department, to earn college credit while in high school that can be transferred to many institutions reducing the cost and time required to obtain a degree.

By changing the definition of the Dual Enrollment Equal Opportunity Act to exclude independent institutions of higher education, this legislation severely limits access to high-quality educational opportunities that best fit student's desired course of study. Rhode Island students would unfortunately lose access to valuable Early Enrollment Programs (EEPs) and forcing enrollment decisions to a limited pool of institutions.

Additionally, The Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner is currently conducting the Rhode Island Affordability Mechanism Study at the request of the General Assembly. This study aims to determine the efficacy of student aid program(s) among **ALL** higher education institutions in Rhode Island. It is unfair to limit student's choices in relation to dual enrollment opportunities while the study is ongoing and without accurate data to assess which programs have the best outcomes for students in Rhode Island.

With these points in mind, AICU *Rhode Island* strongly **opposes House Bill 6058**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Egan", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daniel P. Egan  
President