



Roger Williams University  
One Old Ferry Road  
Bristol, RI 02809

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 Roger Williams University, I write respectfully to express our strong opposition to House Bill 6058. While we respect the bill's intent, we believe it would have unintended consequences that would negatively impact the state high school students served and further undermine the educational mission of all Rhode Island's colleges and universities.

For our own part, RWU has maintained long-standing commitment to expanding access to higher education across Rhode Island—particularly for students who have historically been underrepresented in college classrooms. This commitment spans from our reach into high schools, prisons and non-traditional learners all the way through to the state's only law school. Specifically, our Extension School focuses on providing accessible, affordable and transformative learning experiences for any and all Rhode Islanders. We are deeply concerned that HB6058, in its current form, would disrupt these efforts and potentially limit educational opportunities for hundreds of high school students across the state.

As a leader in early college and dual enrollment programming, RWU provides innovative pathways for students to earn college credit while still in high school. These include but not limited to:

- Early college coursework delivered directly onsite at local high schools by RWU instructional staff, such as EMT Basic training;
- Sponsored curriculum aligned to Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathway standards, currently offered in partnership with 11 high schools across the state.
- And our role as a long-standing provider for the Rhode Island Department of Education's All Course Network (ACN)—a key platform for equitable access to high-quality courses statewide.

Over the last six years, RWU has offered more than 100 dual enrollment courses to over 500 students through various delivery and access models, helping high-school students to explore post-secondary disciplines, advance academic readiness, career preparedness, and earn college credit on their possible pathway to long-term degree attainment.



Legislation like H6058 may unintentionally jeopardize these vital programs by introducing unnecessary barriers, limit and restrict providers of coursework at scale, and create duplicative oversight, or structural limitations that constrain flexibility and responsiveness. Rather than imposing a one-size-fits-all model, we respectfully urge you to oppose House Bill 6058 and instead work with the entire Rhode Island, inclusive of both public and private higher education community to develop policies that strengthen—not restrict—our ability to serve Rhode Island’s learners and communities. Tabling this legislation will allow the committee to talk not only to private institutions but also talk to high school partners and the student needs for dual enrollment credit to ensure all the present and future needs can be met.

We stand ready, as always, to work with state elected officials, the Rhode Island Department of Education, the Office of the Postsecondary, and our fellow educational institutions to ensure Rhode Island remains a national leader in expanding equitable access to early college programming.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian G. Williams, DM  
Chief of Staff

Gena Bianco  
Dean, RWU Extension School

---