

April 9, 2025

Representative Joseph M. McNamara
Chair of the House Education Committee
State of Rhode Island General Assembly
House of Representatives, District 19

Honorable Representative McNamara,

I am writing in opposition to House bill H6058 – An Act Relating to Education -- Dual Enrollment Opportunity Act. Let me begin by stating that I wholeheartedly believe in dual enrollment as a pathway for students in grade 12. I believe the dual enrollment pathway offers unique and important benefits to a subset of students. What I object to in the proposed legislation is the limitation that excludes institutions of higher education that are outside of public education institutions.

My son is a current grade 12 student. He is dually enrolled at East Greenwich High School and New England Institute of Technology (NEIT). He is a high achieving student who benefits from the advanced, college level courses that he is able to take at NEIT that are beyond the offerings of the Advanced Placement curricula available at many high schools. In addition to his academic pursuits, my son is keenly interested in cars. With the dual enrollment program at NEIT, he is able to learn about Advanced Automotive Technology gaining hands-on experience in the practical art of technical automotive science. This prepares him well for his future when he plans to enroll at the University of Rhode Island in their Mechanical Engineering program to which he has been accepted. His current plans are to defer enrollment until he completes his Advanced Automotive Technology program at NEIT. Having the practical experience he obtains at NEIT along with the degree he plans to pursue in mechanical engineering will make him uniquely qualified as he enters the job market after graduation. He only has this opportunity because of the current dual enrollment program which allows NEIT to participate.

As I looked further into the proposed legislation, it strikes me that the public institutions that are identified in the legislation do not offer some of the more practical and trade-associated career paths that NEIT offers. Excluding NEIT from the early college program means that careers in the trades, which are currently in high demand, are no longer options for grade 12 students who seek this path. NEIT offers a unique opportunity for students that is not available through the public institutions of higher education in Rhode Island. I am grateful for their support of my son and his ambitions as he has participated in their early college program this academic year. I urge you to reconsider this proposed legislation.



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