



# Regional Career & Technical Center at Coventry High School

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House Education Chair  
Representative Joseph M. McNamara  
23 Howie Avenue  
Warwick, RI 02888  
Re: Opposition to HB6058

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing to respectfully express my **strong opposition to the proposed Dual Enrollment Equal Opportunity Act**, which would restrict student access to dual enrollment courses to only **public higher education institutions**, excluding private institutions regardless of program relevance or student need.

While the stated aim of this legislation may be to promote fairness in access, its unintended consequence would be to **limit educational options** for students who benefit from dual enrollment programs that align closely with their individual career goals—many of which are offered through private institutions. Forcing all students into a one-size-fits-all public system does not reflect the diverse pathways that today's learners need to be truly college and career-ready.

As an educator who works closely with students and families navigating postsecondary options, I have witnessed the **critical role that flexible, career-aligned dual enrollment programs** play in helping students graduate with purpose and direction. Private institutions—many of which are regionally accredited and deeply connected to workforce demands—offer high-quality, targeted coursework that prepares students for high-skill, high-wage careers in sectors like health care, advanced manufacturing, and technology. Eliminating these options would disproportionately harm students pursuing technical and career-focused education, especially those who do not see a traditional college route as their primary path.

Furthermore, this Act would undermine the state's ongoing efforts to build strong **education-to-workforce pipelines** that rely on meaningful partnerships between K–12 systems and a diverse range of higher education providers. Restricting dual enrollment to public colleges alone fails to recognize the important contributions that **private, often mission-driven institutions** make in expanding opportunities for students across our state.

I urge the Committee to consider the broader implications of this legislation and instead support policies that provide students with **maximum flexibility, equitable access, and alignment to their long-term goals**—whether those involve public or private postsecondary pathways.

Thank you for your leadership and for your commitment to policies that truly serve the best interests of all students.

Sincerely,

*Lori A. Ferguson*

Lori A. Ferguson, Director