



ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION SCHOOL

To: Representatives O'Brien, Dawson, Corvese, Read, Slater, Kazarian,
Diaz, Solomon, Casimiro, and Alzate

RE: *Act Relating to Education- Dual Enrollment Equal Opportunity Act 2025-H 6058*

Date: April 15, 2025

I am writing to vehemently oppose the proposed amendment to the *Act Relating to Education- Dual Enrollment Equal Opportunity Act*. The recommendation to amend references using the phrase 'public higher education institution' is the antithesis of equal opportunity. I would hope that Rhode Island, a state (colony) that Roger Williams founded, remains supportive of the original intent of the legislation, which provides students with freedom of choice to enable them to 'enroll in courses at post-secondary institutions to satisfy academic requirements in both high school and post-secondary institutions' graduation requirements.' This provides Rhode Island students with a rich array of options as they navigate their way to graduation.

Another concern that surfaced during the testimony period was that CCRI does not recognize credits earned in dual enrollment courses in some of the private universities. For example, the credits for college courses that high school students earn through the RWU Law & Criminal Justice courses are not recognized by CCRI. Students have reported that they must retake the same courses, and this is a waste of money and time. The whole point of dual and concurrent enrollment is to provide our high school students with the opportunity to get a head start on college and maybe be able to complete their degrees sooner, thus saving money AND time getting them into the workforce.

Please do not support these ill-conceived proposed changes to this Act. It is meant to limit opportunities and possibilities at a time when we need to continue to support viable pathways to success that include diverse dual enrollment opportunities offered in all of our private and public post-secondary institutions.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lynne Bedard, Ph.D.

Director, RWU-EXT CTE Teacher Certification Program

Career Coordinator, Ponaganset High School