

## Lisa Cataldi

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**From:** Johanna Walczak <annahoj@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 21, 2025 9:49 PM  
**To:** House Education Committee  
**Subject:** House Bill H5836

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

I am a resident of Providence, RI. I am writing to you today to express my support for H5836, the Ethnic Studies bill. I support this bill because it's important to teach the histories of ALL of the diverse communities of Rhode Islanders and Americans, in order to foster more critical thinking, create a deeper understanding, and build more empathy. As the parent of a young child who will be entering Providence Public Schools in the near future, I want my child to learn the history and experiences of the varied racialized communities who are our friends, colleagues, classmates, and neighbors, and not just the white-washed textbook curriculum.

Sincerely,  
Johanna Walczak