



**Testimony in Support of HB7419
February 9, 2026**

TO: House Education Committee

At Collective Action for Education, we strongly support HB7419, relating to education and the certification of teachers. This legislation would provide no-fee certification extensions and expand pathways to teacher and administrator certification. As an organization advocating for more accessible routes into the classroom to address ongoing educator shortages and remove unnecessary barriers for aspiring educators, this bill aligns closely with our core values.

By directly addressing financial burdens associated with licensure, HB7419 helps create a more equitable pathway into the teaching profession. While the state can eliminate or reduce fees established by the Rhode Island Department of Education, the bill also references PRAXIS examination fees, which are set by a third-party vendor rather than the state. Clarifying or amending this language may make the bill stronger and more enforceable.

Collective Action for Education is committed to ensuring that every Rhode Island student, especially those in historically marginalized communities, has access to a great public school: whether that be a district public school, and charter public school, or otherwise. This bill would be of significant importance to all public sectors in education. Achieving our goal requires fully staffed classrooms led by qualified, supported educators. HB7419 moves Rhode Island closer to that reality by removing barriers to certification and helping ensure that schools have the educators they need to serve students well. For these reasons, we respectfully urge passage of HB7419, with amended language to increase its enforcement.