

Oppose Testimony towards H-7415
Attention House Education Committee,

My name is Adriel Falowo, and I am a senior at The Greene School from Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

Everyday I wake up before the sun rises to catch my school bus, sometimes as early as 5 in the morning, all to make sure I get dressed in time for my one hour bus ride to The Greene School. This is the story for a majority of the students at The Greene School.

I could make the easy switch of going to my district school instead, waking up later, making transportation easier, having less sacrifice. But I don't do any of those things. None of the 200 students at The Greene School do.

We sacrifice as much as we do everyday because what we are offered is different. My eyes have been opened to unique opportunities, unique community, and unique learning. The difference is founded in the mission that can't be found in every classroom or in every school. A difference that feels perfect for me.

Before going to The Greene School, I was nervous at the thought of going to school in the literal woods. I never really liked change, and it was everything except for familiar, but it's something I now find comfort and pride in.

The outdoorsy nature that was cultivated in me will last a lifetime. The knowledge and passion for our world and those living in it changed my outlook on life, and living in Pawtucket, camping was probably something that wouldn't have even made a bucket list.

The teachers at my school are people I can credit to being with me through the best and the worst. I have felt seen and respected, something that I feel is the minimum requirement that somehow I know many who don't feel in other schools. And with this middle expansion that students and staff alike have been advocating for in the process that led to our approval, stories like mine have the chance to multiply.

Approving this bill directly opposing my school's expansion means cutting off opportunities for younger students to learn in the ways I have. Approving H-7415 means hurting the small but mighty community my school has built over all of these years, stopping our progress and ultimately the opportunity it creates.

Thank you for your time and consideration.