

Dear House Education Committee. My name is Aleah Taly. I am a resident of Cumberland and a proud senior at The Greene School, urging you to oppose H7415.

I'm writing to you as someone who has lived through the difference a school's culture can make. Before TGS, my middle school experience was defined by these "cliques" and the constant fear of judgment. I watched people pull apart based on who looked like them or acted like them. This left me with a sense of displacement, where my social life became a constant effort to mold myself into someone who fit in.

Entering The Greene School as a freshman was a culture shock in the best way; I watched students with polar opposite styles, interests, and backgrounds move past "coexisting" to become genuine best friends. TGS dismantled the barriers I grew up with. It replaced judgment with an open-minded, welcoming culture that allowed me to become friends with people "Middle School Aleah" would have been too intimidated to even speak to. This culture of open-mindedness isn't just performative—it directly impacts our daily motivation and academic engagement. In fact, witnessing the social disconnect my friends experience elsewhere only confirms how rare and intentional our community truly is.

We have spent months of hard work to get our expansion approved because we believe this culture shouldn't start in the 9th grade. It shouldn't be a "rescue mission" for high schoolers; it should be a foundation for middle schoolers.

If H7415 passes, it doesn't just stunt our progress, it removes the opportunity from younger students who are sitting in those "cliquey" middle school hallways right now, waiting for the environment they deserve.

I love my school, and I believe its unique culture is a gift that should be accessible to as many Rhode Island students as possible. Please do not stop our momentum.

I urge you to vote no on H7415. Thank you.

Best regards, Aleah Taly
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