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From: Cheryl Babiec <babieccn@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 8, 2026 5:44 PM
To: Rep. McNamara, Joseph M.; Rep. Noret, Thomas E.; rep-kisiak@rilegislature.gov; rep-kiah@rilegislature.gov; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Cotter, Megan L.; Rep. Donovan, Susan R; Rep. Fascia, Richard R.; Rep. Giraldo, Joshua J.; Rep. Perez, Ramon A.; Rep. Phillips, Robert D.; Rep. Read, III, Earl A.; Rep. Roberts, Sherry; Rep. Shallcross Smith, Mary Ann; Rep. Voas, Brandon T.; House Education Committee
Subject: RI House Bill H7415 and RI Joint Resolution H8131

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Dear Honorable Members of the House Education Committee,

Please support H7415 and H8131 as these pieces of legislation are responsive to an existing need to review the critical financial impact created by the continual expansion of charter schools in Rhode Island.

As a retired public school teacher (and product of the public school system) I continually advocate for my profession. For a number of years, the encroachment of charter schools has continually gained momentum. The term 'public' would eventually be added to the marketing of charter schools, yet certain expectations were not made of them as they were of traditional public school systems. Where was the funding for the creation of these schools coming from? Why would anyone from the business sector be a part of this business venture unless there was some financial gain. Did anyone ever question funding sources that come from outside of Rhode Island? As time progressed, I became acutely aware of the impact charter schools had upon the public school system and the financial strain that has resulted as monies have left the local school department as "tuition to other public".

The traditional public schools do not market themselves to the general public as charter schools do. I am not aware of any traditional public school system that has a marketing department or budget for the marketing of their wonderful educational programs. There have been, however, a few school departments that had been able to advertise their CTE (career tech ed.) programs. There has never been a pull-off ad on the Valley Breeze for a traditional public school department.

When financial studies are done, are all charter schools included along with the traditional public schools? Personally, I do not feel that the public truly knows of or understands the financing behind charter schools, nor do I feel that the general public is aware of the financial impact created by charter schools upon public school departments before facing a potential tax increase. The traditional public schools are continually negatively impacted with the depletion of funds that are lost when a student leaves when accepted into a charter school. There are expenses that remain constant within a public school system as funds are depleted. New deficits create new challenges for a school department and the city.

As the cities across Rhode Island face potential deficits during this time of economic uncertainty, the need for the passage of H7415 and Joint Resolution H8131 is imperative! The terms

'transparency' and 'accountability' are often spoken by so many, but are not often reflected in the actions taken. The passage of these two pieces of legislation would be an example of such an action, as not all 'public' schools are publicly examined or evaluated equitably.

Now is a time to halt the expansion of charter schools and allow a commission to review the funding and expenses involved with charter schools. Please support the passage of H7415 and H8131!

Your time and attention to this matter is truly valued and appreciated!

**Respectfully,
Cheryl Babiec
Pawtucket Resident & Active with this community!
Proud Pawtucket Public School Teacher (30 plus years!)
Supporter of Public Education**