



Testimony Opposing H7415 Relating to the Establishment of Charter Public Schools

March 10, 2026

To: House Education Committee

The Rhode Island League of Charter Public Schools (the League) is writing to express strong opposition to H7415. This legislation seeks to impose a moratorium on the approval and expansion of charter public schools, a move that would fundamentally undermine our state's progress in providing high-quality public education options, including charter public schools, career and technical education programs, and other programs, to students.

Charter public schools are tuition-free, public, and held to the highest standards of accountability of any public school in Rhode Island. Charter public schools are one way that Rhode Island can ensure every child, in every community, has access to a school that is the right fit for them. By prohibiting their growth, H7415 ignores the voices of thousands of families who seek specific educational environments to meet their children's unique needs. Every family deserves the right to decide which public school—whether district, charter, or state—is the best fit for their child.

The demand for these options is undeniable. For the 2025-26 school year, 9,372 families submitted over 30,200 applications for just 3,170 available seats. Instead of adding red tape and closing doors to these families, we should be expanding access to successful programs within the public education system, particularly for those communities historically underserved by district schools. Rhode Island must prioritize progress over restriction to ensure every child has a chance to attend a public school that is right for them.

Critically, this bill would effectively overturn decisions already made by the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education. The Council is the body tasked with evaluating the merits of school applications through a rigorous, data-driven process. To have the Legislature step in and retroactively negate those approvals is a disservice to the families and educators who spent years advocating for new opportunities, followed the rules, and earned their seats through the established process.



On behalf of the League and the thousands of families currently on waiting lists for a charter public school seat, I urge you to vote no on H7415. We must continue to prioritize fairness and ensure that every family has the ability to access the public school that is right for their child.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chiara Deltito-Sharrott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

Chiara Deltito-Sharrott
Executive Director, Rhode Island League of Charter Public Schools