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From: Eric Asselin <asseline@psdri.net>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2026 9:42 PM
To: House Education Committee
Subject: H7415

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Dear members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing to urge your support for H 7415, the proposed charter school moratorium and cap reduction. Rhode Island's public school systems are facing unprecedented financial strain, and continuing to expand charter schools only deepens the crisis for the students and communities our public schools serve.

In Pawtucket alone, the district sent approximately \$7.5 million in "tuition to other public schools" last year—primarily to charter schools. Now the district is facing an \$8 million deficit, the worst financial crisis in a generation of educators. The consequences are severe: potential layoffs, school closures, and reduced services that will directly harm Pawtucket students.

This problem is not unique to Pawtucket. Rhode Island already has 64 superintendents for a very small state. The administrative overhead of maintaining more than 64 school districts, while simultaneously expanding charter systems, creates unnecessary duplication, inefficiency, and waste of limited education dollars. Instead of strengthening the schools that serve the vast majority of students, we are spreading resources thinner and thinner.

The strain extends beyond budgets. Local education agencies are required to provide transportation to charter schools, forcing many communities to scale back busing for their own neighborhood public schools. This means fewer transportation options for the students who remain in district schools, even as districts shoulder additional costs to support charter expansion.

At the same time, charter schools have not consistently demonstrated better outcomes than the public schools sending them students. Yet the financial structure requires districts to divert millions of dollars away from the classrooms that serve most children.

Rhode Island also spent the last decade committing to a once-in-a-generation effort to rebuild and modernize our public school facilities across the state. It is difficult to understand why, after making that investment in our public education infrastructure, we would simultaneously continue policies that send public education funding out of district—and in some cases out of state—to corporate charter operators.

H 7415 would provide the state with a necessary pause to assess the financial and educational impacts of charter expansion and to stabilize district budgets. Our priority should be ensuring that neighborhood public schools have the resources they need to serve all students.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Eric Asselin

Cranston, RI