

Hilary Conners
2 Woodmist Circle
Coventry, RI 02816
3/10/2026

Dear Senator Raptakis and Representative Noret,

I am writing as a public school pediatric therapist, concerned Rhode Island resident and supporter of high-quality, equitable public education to urge you to support H7415, the bill that would place a moratorium on charter school expansion in our state.

Charter schools in Rhode Island have expanded rapidly over the past decade, but that growth has too often come at a cost—to local public school budgets, especially with regard to equitable access for students with disabilities. I have seen first hand many families with students with disabilities are informally encouraged or even forced to leave charter schools because their needs cannot be adequately met. This practice undermines the principle of inclusion and places additional strain on traditional public schools that must absorb these students mid-year without additional resources.

Additionally, concerns remain about staffing quality and oversight. Charter schools are often exempt from some of the certification and labor standards that apply to district schools. As a result, students may be taught or supported by underqualified or insufficiently trained staff who lack the experience to meet diverse learning needs—including those of multilingual learners and students with special education plans. Every child in Rhode Island deserves highly qualified educators, regardless of their needs.

Until these systemic issues are addressed, expanding the number of charter schools only widens inequities and diverts limited state funds from the traditional public schools that serve the majority of our students. H7415 offers the state a chance to pause, evaluate outcomes honestly, and develop stronger accountability measures before any further growth takes place.

Please stand with Rhode Island's families, teachers, and communities by voting in favor of H7415. Thoughtful oversight and a commitment to equity should guide our education policy—not unchecked expansion.

Thank you for your attention and your service to our state.

Sincerely,
Hilary Conners

Coventry Constituent