



John Thompson

Vice President
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Dear Members of the Rhode Island General Assembly,

I write in strong support of H 7415, an important piece of legislation that addresses Rhode Island's need for a thoughtful review of charter school expansion for the next three years.

As a long-standing member of Rhode Island's educational community, I have witnessed numerous waves of educational reform, including the steady growth of charter schools across our state. As you are aware, the development of what has effectively become a parallel education system has not proven to be the solution to meeting the educational needs of Rhode Island's students. Instead, it has directed significant Rhode Island tax dollars to outside organizations without any clear or measurable improvement in outcomes.

Rather than continuing the expansion of charter schools—which further diverts much-needed resources from the public schools that serve the vast majority of Rhode Island students—I urge you to recommit to strengthening our public education system. This can begin with pausing charter expansion, conducting a thorough review of the financial impact on local public school districts, and working collaboratively to develop a sustainable plan and financial commitment that supports high-quality education for all Rhode Island students.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the improvement of RI education!

Respectfully,

John Thompson