

Lisa Cataldi

From: Kerry Tuttlebee <ktuttlebee@thegreeneschool.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 1:04 PM
To: House Education Committee
Subject: Opposition to H7415

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Good afternoon, Chair McNamara and members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Kerry Tuttlebee, I live in South Providence and I am the Head of School at The Greene School. We are a small but mighty charter public high school in West Greenwich, Rhode Island, serving 200 students in grades 9 through 12.

I want to briefly share where I come from, because I have spent my nearly 30-year career working across charter public schools and district public schools as a teacher, school leader, and education consultant at a nonprofit. I have seen this sector from many angles - most recently I worked in Providence Schools as a principal for nine years with my esteemed colleague, Representative Biah. I am not someone who believes charter public schools are beyond scrutiny or accountability. I believe in rigorous oversight. I believe in high standards. And I believe in the process — which is exactly why I'm here.

The Greene School serves students statewide, from Westerly to Providence to Coventry, and our demographics mirror that of the state. Students, 1 in 5 of whom are differently abled, thrive at Greene, exceeding state averages on state assessments and benefitting from our pre-college curriculum and Expeditionary Learning model.

We are in the process of expanding The Greene School from a high school to include 168 additional students in grades 6 through 8, to become one secondary school of grades 6-12. This small expansion is not just an idea. Our families asked for the expansion, RIDE recommended our expansion, and the K-12 Council for Elementary and Secondary Education approved it. We have followed every step of the process — every requirement, every review, every public comment period — and H7415 would override it.

This bill bars approval and funding for any charter school not approved before July 1, 2025. Our expansion falls outside that window — not because we were slow, but because that is when the process concluded. This legislation would penalize us for following the rules.

Here's what this means for us on the ground. There are families in Rhode Island that are looking for the kind of environmental, interconnected learning and caring community that The Greene School provides. Our team has been planning around this expansion for a long time. If this bill passes, we will have to look RI middle grades students, families and our team in the eye and tell them that the state changed course — not because we failed, but because the legislature stopped us mid-stream.

I understand that there are legitimate concerns driving this bill. If there are questions about accountability in the charter sector, about fiscal impact on districts, about transparency — I welcome that conversation. I've worked inside those systems. Those are important conversations. But a blanket moratorium is a blunt instrument.

The Greene School has been serving Rhode Island students for 15 years and provides a unique opportunity for students from across RI to learn together on our beautiful campus in the woods of West Greenwich. We are financially sound. Our students succeed. And we went through RIDE's rigorous review because we believed the process meant something.

I'm asking this committee to consider what it signals when a school community does everything right — and still gets stopped. I'm asking you to protect the integrity of the process that RIDE runs, and to let our expansion move forward by opposing this bill. Thank you for your consideration – and I invite you to visit us or our students and team could meet with you here any time.

Sincerely,
Kerry

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Kerry Tuttlebee ([she/her](#))

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