

**Date:** March 9th, 2026

**Bill:** H7415 - RELATING TO EDUCATION -- ESTABLISHMENT OF CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Name:** Madalyn Ciampi

**Role:** Community Member & Parent

**Position:** Opposition

Chair McNamara, First Vice Chair Noret, Second Vice Chair Kislak, and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on H7415 - RELATING TO EDUCATION -- ESTABLISHMENT OF CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS. My name is Madalyn Ciampi, and I am a mother and community advocate with over a decade of experience in the local education community. I am writing to express my **strong opposition** for this legislation because I believe in fairness, opportunity, and quality **public school options for all children.**

Families deserve the ability to make informed decisions about their children's education. Every child learns differently, and parents are best positioned to determine what type of school environment will help their child thrive. Charter public schools provide an important option within the public education system that allows families to choose the educational setting that best meets their child's needs.

In Rhode Island, charter schools play a critical role in addressing gaps within the educational landscape. They offer innovative learning models, specialized programming, and mission-driven environments that are not always available in traditional public schools. For many families - particularly those in our urban communities - these schools represent an opportunity to access high-quality educational experiences that might otherwise be out of reach.

Importantly, the demand for charter public schools far exceeds the number of available seats. Each year, thousands of Rhode Island families enter lotteries hoping for the opportunity to enroll their children in a charter school. The reality that so many students remain on waitlists demonstrates the strong demand from parents seeking additional high-quality public school options.

**Legislation like H7415 would limit the growth and availability of these options at a time when families are clearly asking for more educational opportunities for their children.**

Rather than restricting access, policymakers should focus on ensuring that all public schools - including both district and charter schools - have the resources and support needed to serve students well.

Significantly, the July 1, 2025 stipulation overturns previously granted pre-approvals that would expand charter school opportunities for families, despite the fact that a sound and public process had been duly followed. This action introduces significant uncertainty into established public decision-making processes. **Most importantly, it risks disenfranchising the voices of community members who participated in that process.**

Rhode Island families deserve access to a diverse range of strong public school options. Charter public schools are an important part of that ecosystem and help ensure that families have meaningful choices when it comes to their children's education.

**For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to oppose H7415.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Madalyn Ciampi  
Cumberland, Rhode Island