

Lisa Cataldi

From: Ronald Beaupre <beauprer@psdri.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 8, 2026 2:13 PM
To: Rep. McNamara, Joseph M.; Rep. Noret, Thomas E.; Rep. Kislak, Rebecca M.; Rep. Biah, Nathan W.; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Cotter, Megan L.; Rep. Donovan, Susan R; Rep. Fascia, Richard R.; Rep. Giraldo, Joshua J.; Rep. Perez, Ramon A.; Rep. Phillips, Robert D.; Rep. Read, III, Earl A.; Rep. Roberts, Sherry; Rep. Shallcross Smith, Mary Ann; Rep. Voas, Brandon T.; House Education Committee
Subject: Please Support H7414 and H8131

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Dear Honorable Members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing to urge you to support Rhode Island House Bill H7415 and Rhode Island House Joint Resolution H8131, which together take a responsible approach to examining Rhode Island's charter school policy and funding system.

H7415 would pause the approval or expansion of new charter schools beginning in the 2026–2027 school year. This pause would give policymakers time to evaluate the real fiscal impacts that charter expansion has on local school districts. When students leave district schools for charter schools, funding follows the student, but many district costs—such as facilities, transportation, and staffing—remain fixed. This creates financial strain for districts that continue to educate most Rhode Island's students.

These funding pressures often lead to difficult decisions at the local level, including staff reductions, program cuts, and increased class sizes. Research, including the well-known Project STAR (Student/Teacher Achievement Ratio Study), shows that smaller class sizes—particularly in the early grades—lead to stronger academic outcomes and long-term student success.

H8131 would establish a legislative commission to study Rhode Island's charter school funding formula and provide recommendations for a more sustainable and equitable system.

Together, these bills simply allow Rhode Island the time and structure needed to carefully review the impacts of charter school expansion before making further long-term policy decisions.

I respectfully ask that you support H7415 and H8131 and help ensure that Rhode Island's public education system remains strong, equitable, and financially sustainable for all communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ronald A. Beaupre, President
Pawtucket Teachers' Alliance

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