

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

Name: Sarah Campbell

Role: 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 Sarah Campbell, and I am a parent. I am writing to express my strong opposition to this legislation because **I believe parents should have the ability to make decisions about the educational environment that best supports their children.**

As a parent, my priority is making sure my child has access to a school where they feel supported, challenged, and able to succeed. Every child learns differently, and families often look for school environments that match their child's unique needs, learning style, and interests. Charter public schools give families an important public school option and allow parents to take an active role in choosing the path that is right for their child.

For many families in Rhode Island, charter schools help fill important gaps in the education system. They can offer different approaches to learning, smaller school environments, or specialized programming that may not always be available elsewhere. These options are incredibly valuable to parents who are trying to find the best possible educational experience for their children.

The high demand for charter schools shows just how important these options are to families. Each year, many students remain on waitlists because there simply are not enough seats available. This demonstrates that families across Rhode Island are actively seeking more educational choices, not fewer.

The July 1, 2025 stipulation reverses a decision that had already approved expanding charter school opportunities for families, even though it followed a public process where community members shared their views. Even for parents whose own children may not be directly affected, this kind of reversal is concerning. When decisions made through a public process are undone, it creates confusion about whether that process truly matters. When families take time to speak up and participate, they should be able to trust that their voice counts. When that trust is shaken, it weakens confidence in the system for everyone.

Legislation like H7415 would limit opportunities for families who are simply trying to do what is best for their children. As parents, we want access to strong public school options and the ability to choose the environment where our children can thrive.

I respectfully urge the Committee to oppose H7415 and continue supporting policies that empower parents and expand high-quality educational opportunities for Rhode Island students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah Campbell
Providence, RI