

**Lisa Cataldi**

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**From:** Sarah Kristiansen <skristiansen@thegreeneschool.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2026 1:07 PM  
**To:** House Education Committee  
**Subject:** Opposition to H7415

You don't often get email from skristiansen@thegreeneschool.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

**My name is Sarah Kristiansen, and I am an English teacher at The Greene School. I am writing to respectfully express my opposition to House Bill H7415.**

I chose to work in a public charter school because it allows teachers the flexibility, respect, and professional autonomy to collaborate and design meaningful learning experiences for students. At The Greene School, I work alongside an extraordinary group of educators who push one another to be better teachers every day, all held to the same rigorous certification standards as every other Rhode Island teacher. Our recently approved middle school expansion reflects the strength of this model and would allow younger students to access that proven learning community earlier, during the pivotal middle school years.

Teachers across Rhode Island—whether in district or charter schools—share the same mission. We believe in public education and care deeply about the students we serve. Charter public schools are not separate from public education; we are part of it, serving families seeking the learning environment that best supports their children.

The real challenge facing Rhode Island schools is not the existence of charter schools, but that our public education system as a whole is not funded equitably or adequately for our students. House Bill H7415 is particularly concerning because it would retroactively halt an expansion that followed the state's rigorous approval process and was already approved by the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education. When schools follow the rules, earn approval, and families plan around those decisions, Rhode Island should keep that promise.

Frederick Douglass once said, "It is not light that is needed, but fire." Rhode Island does not need more light on the challenges facing our schools—we see them clearly in the lives of our students and families every day. What we need is the courage to create meaningful opportunities for young people and strengthen public education, including honoring the expansions already approved by RIDE.

I respectfully urge you to oppose H7415 and support policies that expand educational opportunities for Rhode Island students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah Kristiansen

**Sarah Kristiansen, M. Ed.** ([she/her](#))

*English Teacher, The Greene School*

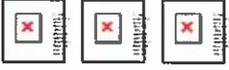
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