

Dear House Committee on Education,

I'm writing to express my strong support for the approval of bill number H7415.

As a public school teacher in the Providence Public School Department, I have seen firsthand what happens when millions of dollars is spent on big box charters. When this happens students in the Providence Public School District lose out. They lose out of supplies, opportunities, counselors, even after school programming. This creates a parallel school district in the urban areas where these big box charters are siphoning students from traditional public schools.

Rhode Island is a state with 39 cities and towns, yet there are 64 LEAs. With 64 bloated administrative costs. It takes an hour to drive end to end in Rhode Island, we're 37 miles wide, and 48 miles long, but we have **64 school districts**. The amount of money we are spending on big box charters is staggering, especially considering how big box charters do not have the same population of students, as students are cherry picked, and counseled out.

Providence just invested millions in new buildings; we should fill those before expanding charters and pulling more kids from traditional public schools. We should support our public schools instead of approving more charter schools.

Having a cap on charters will ensure that funding for public school districts is both stable and reliable.

I urge you to support House bill 7415, so we can stop giving big box charters resources, and start giving them to who needs them most, our students.

Thank you,
Shannon McLoud
Vice President of High Schools
Providence Teachers Union