

Lisa Cataldi

From: Tracey Kareemo <kareemot@psdri.net>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2026 1:10 PM
To: House Education Committee
Subject: H 7415

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Dear Members of the Rhode Island Legislature,

I am writing as a Rhode Island public school educator with 30 years of experience to express concern about the impact of H7415 on communities like Pawtucket.

This year, Pawtucket Public Schools sent \$7.5 million in “tuition to other public schools,” largely to charter schools, while at the same time facing an \$8 million deficit — the worst many educators here have seen in a generation. The consequences are real: potential layoffs, school closures, and fewer resources for the students who remain in our district.

When funding leaves a district, the costs of running schools do not disappear. Buildings still operate, services must still be provided, and transportation must still run. In fact, many communities have had to scale back busing for their own students because districts are required to provide transportation for charter schools.

Rhode Island already operates over 64 school districts, each with its own administrative structure. At a time when districts are struggling financially, further fragmenting resources only increases inefficiency and strain.

At the same time, charter schools have not consistently demonstrated stronger outcomes than the public schools sending them students.

Rhode Island has also spent the last decade investing billions in rebuilding public school facilities. It is difficult to understand why we would make a once-in-a-generation investment in public schools while continuing to divert funding away from the districts that serve the majority of our children.

I urge you to consider the very real impact these policies have on communities and on the stability of our public school system.

Respectfully,
Tracey Kareemo
Rhode Island Public School Educator
30 Years of Service

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