

## Opposition to H7415

Dear Chair McNamara and Members of the House Education Committee,

As a Barrington resident, a progressive Democrat, a mom of two district public school children, the daughter of Latin American immigrants, and a first generation college student myself, I am writing to respectfully urge you to oppose H7415.

I was debating whether or not to submit a formal letter, but after diligently watching the live feed of the hearing last night, I felt it was my moral obligation to use my privilege and my voice to push back against this harmful legislation.

If passed, H7415 will further remove opportunity for thousands of students across Rhode Island, including Black and Brown students who have been systemically oppressed for decades. Students and families who have been told *they are the problem*, not the system. Families who have been told to wait (patiently). To trust (religiously). To get in line (but always in the back). To show up (but not too loudly). To speak up (but mind the time limit).

The passage of this bill would stifle a child's access to a public school that could be right for them. A public school that could impact their most critical years of schooling and could unlock doors that would help them thrive and succeed in life.

Proponents of this bill claim that this is just a "pause," but we know their well-documented policy positions on charter public schools: they are opposed to their existence. There are few guarantees in this life, but I can tell you that it is a guarantee that while this bill may describe a three-year moratorium, its passage will all but cement the end of new charter public school opportunities for the next decade and beyond.

I urge you to oppose this bill, not because I need this option for my kids, potentially not even because someday your children or grandchildren may benefit from a charter public school, but for the thousands of parents who **today** are asking for the opportunity to find a school that is right for their kids.

Thank you for reading my letter, and considering my perspective as you decide how to proceed with H7415.

Sincerely,  
Victoria Criado  
Barrington, Rhode Island