

TO: Chair McNamara and members of the House Education Committee

FROM: Amy Herlihy

RE: Support for H 7415-Charter moratorium/cap reduction and H 8131-Commission to study charter funding and costs

DATE: 3/9/2026

Chairwoman McNamara and honorable members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Amy Herlihy and I live in Barrington.

I am writing to urge your support of H 7415 (Charter moratorium/cap reduction). The State of Rhode Island has 64 Superintendents. Having so many Superintendents and overlapping expenditures in a state the size of Rhode Island is not an efficient use of taxpayer dollars. I work for the Pawtucket School Department and they sent \$7.5 million in 'tuition to other publics' and now the district is facing an \$8 million deficit. This is the worst in a generation of teachers that will cause layoffs, school closures, and harm Pawtucket students.

I am also writing to urge your support of H 8131 (Commission to study charter funding and costs) because charter schools should be held to the same financial standards as public schools- otherwise how can we protect the taxpayers and know exactly what charter schools are actually costing us? At this time charter schools are not required to be transparent with how they spend RI taxpayer dollars, unlike all other government agencies.