



Testimony Opposing HJR8131

March 10, 2026

To: House Education Committee

Dear Chair McNamara and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Charter Public Schools, I am writing to share our perspective on HJR8131. We appreciate that this legislation recognizes the urgent need to examine charter public school funding and would include charter public school representation on the commission. Charter public schools currently operate with significant funding disparities. Charter public schools receive as little as 86% of the calculated state aid amount due to district holdback of funds and face significant challenges accessing financing for facilities due to current state policies, resulting in fewer funds to support students and teachers.

While we agree with the bill sponsors that we need to re-examine how we as a state fund public schools, we do not support HJR8131 in its current form. We believe that addressing funding inequities requires comprehensive, holistic reform rather than a fragmented approach that treats different school models in isolation.

The League supports the recommendations put forth by the Rhode Island Foundation Blue Ribbon Commission, which provided a roadmap for fairness and sustainable growth for all kids. Creating a separate commission at this stage would be duplicative and risks delaying the substantial reform needed to move the needle for students. Every student deserves a high-quality public education, and we believe the most effective path forward is to pursue the integrated funding solutions already identified to ensure every child has access to the school that is right for them. As such, we oppose HJR8131.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chiara Deltito-Sharrott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small flourish at the end.

Chiara Deltito-Sharrott
Executive Director, Rhode Island League of Charter Public Schools