

## Lisa Cataldi

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**From:** Eric Asselin <asseline@psdri.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 9:50 PM  
**To:** House Education Committee  
**Subject:** H8131--Writing in Support of Commission to study charter funding and costs

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Dear House Education Committee,

I am writing to urge you to support House Bill 8131, which would create a commission to study charter school funding and costs in Rhode Island. This legislation is a necessary step toward ensuring transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

Unlike local education agencies and other government bodies, charter schools are not required to provide the same level of transparency in how they spend Rhode Island taxpayer funding. Public school districts must meet rigorous financial reporting standards and oversight requirements. Charter schools, however, are often able to operate with far less public scrutiny—even though they are funded with the same public dollars.

In some cases, charter schools send significant portions of that funding out of state to corporate management organizations with billion-dollar headquarters. Rhode Island taxpayers deserve to know how their money is being used and whether those funds are supporting students in our communities or flowing to outside corporate entities with limited accountability.

If charter schools are funded by Rhode Island taxpayers, they must be held to the same financial transparency and reporting standards as local education agencies. Without that level of oversight, it becomes far more difficult to protect the public from potential fraud, waste, or corporate profiteering at the expense of our education system.

House Bill 8131 would not predetermine the outcome of this discussion—it simply establishes a commission to examine the true costs and financial structures behind charter schools. Rhode Islanders need clear answers about what charters are actually costing our communities and our state.

Transparency should not be controversial. If charter schools have nothing to hide, there should be no objection to greater financial clarity and accountability.

Rhode Island taxpayers and families deserve to understand how public education funding is being spent. I respectfully ask that you support H 8131 and help ensure that public dollars are subject to the public accountability they require.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Eric Asselin

Cranston, RI