



John D. Thompson

Vice President
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Cranston, RI

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Dear Members of the Rhode Island General Assembly,

I write in support of H 8131, an important piece of legislation which would create a joint legislative commission to study Rhode Island's method of funding schools.

Rhode Island's educational landscape has changed significantly since the last revision of the state's school funding formula. As the system has evolved, new disparities have emerged that warrant thoughtful review. It is essential that we work toward a level playing field for all educational models operating within the State of Rhode Island.

Over time, the number of publicly funded districts has effectively increased from 36 local school districts to 66, largely due to the creation of 30 charter school organizations. This expansion has redirected significant taxpayer resources away from local school districts, in some cases sending public funds to out-of-state organizations while limiting the oversight traditionally exercised by local and state elected officials.

I respectfully urge you to support and pass H8131. This legislation represents an important step toward modernizing Rhode Island's education funding formula and ensuring that both state and local stakeholders make the necessary financial commitment to our public education system. The quality of our schools, the condition of our facilities, and the educational opportunities available to Rhode Island students depend on your continued investment and leadership.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the improvement of RI education!

Sincerely,

John Thompson