

Lisa Cataldi

From: Judith O'Neill <oneillj@psdri.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 7, 2026 2:38 PM
To: House Education Committee
Subject: Stop Charter schools!!

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To Whom it may Concern,
Charter Schools must be stopped in RI!

- Pawtucket sent \$7.5 million in 'tuition to other publics' and now we are facing an \$8 million deficit, the worst in a generation of teachers, that will cause layoffs, school closures, and harm Pawtucket students
- 64 extra Superintendents
- cost of overhead of having over 64 school districts. Anything that points out waste and inefficiency.
- The strain on resources. For example, buses, many of our communities have had to scale back busing for public schools because LEAs are required to provide busing to the charters.
- The simple fact is that charter schools do not perform better than the public schools sending them.
- Why did Rhode Island spend the last 10 years committing to a once in a generation school rebuild across the state, to just hand over the keys to corporations sending money out of state?

H 8131 – Commission to study charter funding and costs

- Charter schools are not required to be transparent with how they spend RI taxpayer dollars unlike all other government agencies.
- Many charters send the money out of state to their billion dollar corporate offices with no accountability to how the funding is spent.
- Charters funded by RI taxpayers must be held to the same financial/Special Ed standards as LEAs otherwise how can we protect the taxpayers from fraud and corporate greed.
- We need and deserve to know what charters are actually costing us
- Why are they against transparency if they have nothing to hide?

Thank you,
Judith A O'Neill
Sent from my iPhone