



*Distinctive Communities
Powerful Alliance*

March 10, 2026

The Honorable Joseph M. McNamara, Chair
House Education Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: HOUSE RESOLUTION 8131 – JOINT RESOLUTION CREATING A SPECIAL JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY RHODE ISLAND'S METHOD OF FUNDING CHARTER SCHOOLS

Chair McNamara and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, we write to express our support for House Resolution 8131, which would establish a special joint legislative commission to conduct a comprehensive review of Rhode Island's charter school funding structure and related administrative costs.

Municipalities play a central role in supporting public education across the state, including the fiscal responsibilities associated with charter school tuition payments. As such, cities and towns have a strong interest in ensuring that Rhode Island's charter school funding system is transparent, sustainable, and equitable for students, families, and local taxpayers.

House Resolution 8131 would create a thirteen-member commission charged with studying Rhode Island's method of funding charter schools and evaluating administrative costs across district charter schools, independent charter schools, mayoral academy charter schools, and traditional public-school districts. The League believes that a comprehensive and data-driven review of these issues will help inform policymakers as they consider the long-term structure and fiscal impacts of charter school funding.

We appreciate the sponsor's recognition of the importance of municipal perspectives by including a seat on the commission for the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns. Cities and towns are responsible for managing local budgets and balancing competing priorities while meeting their educational obligations, and municipal input will help ensure that the commission's work reflects the on-the-ground fiscal realities faced by local governments.

By bringing together stakeholders to examine funding methodologies and administrative cost structures, this commission will provide an opportunity to develop thoughtful recommendations that support students while maintaining fiscal sustainability for municipalities and school districts across Rhode Island.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to contributing constructively to the work of the commission should this legislation be adopted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Rossi", written in a cursive style.

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Education Committee