

## Lisa Cataldi

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**From:** Tracy Lazzareschi <lazzareschit@psdri.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 10:13 AM  
**To:** House Education Committee  
**Subject:** Charter Moratorium H7415 and H8131

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the upcoming H7415 and H8131.

I have been a teacher for the last 27 years for the City of Pawtucket. I have seen first hand the increasing number of families that are opting for Charter Schools instead of their public school. I believe this will ultimately be the undoing of public education and it greatly saddens me. I am far in my career so this is not me writing to save my own job but this is me writing on behalf of future teachers and the future students and our future communities!

I have heard enough stories about Charter schools from first hand experiences that Charter schools are not better than public schools. I think it is one of the biggest misconceptions to the families that think otherwise! This bill will just continue to weaken the public school system.

What I do not understand is why the government would even consider investing in Charter schools when Charter schools are not required to report how they spend Our taxpayer dollars. I feel that is the government's duty to the taxpayer! Many schools are funding out-of-state billion dollar corporate offices. These are our taxpayer dollars and we quite frankly do not have dollars to spare. Every taxpayer dollar allocated for schools should be going directly to benefit the children and the staff of Our schools. Everyone that receives taxpayer dollars should be held to the same accountability. Otherwise, it reeks of corruption or the very least For-Profit!

I work with the preschool program and understand the increasing cost of transportation. More and more preschoolers will not have access to their education due to the lack of transportation for some of our families. The financial strain districts have to deal with regarding transportation is killing them. What baffles me is RIDE does not seem to be advocating on our behalf either which again makes me think of corruption.

I will close with.. if we continue with this trajectory and stealing funds from the public schools to fund Charter school expansion it will have the ripple effect across the state.

Charter school expansion not only drains our public schools but also the current Charter schools we have. This will affect the teachers. Teachers will leave the state to find jobs in neighboring states that pay higher salaries and have a better retirement plan. Teachers make up a large portion of the middle class in Rhode Island. The middle class in my opinion is the back-bone of this state and this country!

I will leave you with this...What's next? Outside agencies that offer alternatives to policing or firefighting? I watched first hand when we transitioned from independent bus drivers that were members in our community to save money and look where that got us! Our busing system is horrible. Charter school expansion will cause our public schools to crumble. We need to preserve and fund our public school system to preserve the middle class in this state.

Sincerely,  
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