

**March 9, 2026**

**Testimony in SUPPORT of **House Bill No. 7415** ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- ESTABLISHMENT OF CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS and **HJR 8131** JOINT RESOLUTION CREATING A SPECIAL JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY RHODE ISLAND'S METHOD OF FUNDING CHARTER SCHOOLS.**

To the members of the Education House Committee,

My name is Yamil Baez and I am a Rhode Island resident, graduate of the Providence Public School system and currently a teacher at a traditional public high school in Rhode Island. I strongly support the two bills referenced above in order to strengthen our Rhode Island public school system and serve our children and youth.

Bill 7415 provides a much-needed opportunity for our state to take a step back in order to learn from the mistakes of other states that had allowed unchecked expansion and operation of charter schools. Currently the ever-growing number of charter schools is contributing to the diversion of funds in ways that destabilize the ability to resource all schools appropriately. Ultimately the children and youth in our state are being short-changed while our local government distances itself from its responsibility to them by placing public education in the hands of many unexperienced, untrained and/or uncertified educators and administrators beholden to private funding. While this isn't the case for all charters, the fact that the current process for approving and establishing charter schools allows for this is troublesome to say the least.

Additionally, the work proposed by HJR 8131 at this time should be a requirement if we are to continue supporting charter schools in this state. It is my hope that instead we find ways to strengthen our commitment to traditional public schools and support all children and youth equitably.

Ms. Yamil Baez