

March 17, 2026

Chair and Members of the House Education Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI

Dear Chair McNamara and Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Shannon Ewing, and I am an 8th grade science teacher in Johnston. I am writing to ask for your support of **H7526**, legislation that would give teachers the authority to remove students from classrooms when behavior creates safety risks or major disruptions.

Educators are responsible for maintaining safe and productive learning environments. When serious disruptions occur, teachers must be able to respond quickly in order to protect students and staff and ensure that learning can continue for the rest of the class. The bill also helps ensure that students who are removed from the classroom receive appropriate support and intervention before returning, so they can successfully re-engage in the learning environment.

In my work as an educator, I have seen situations where classroom disruptions or unsafe behavior made it difficult to continue instruction. Every year it seems that there are more mental health challenges our students face and less support staff to help address these increased behaviors. All students deserve access to education and too often one student can cause such a disruption, that all other student learning is jeopardized due to behavior, threats and violence. In my role as Union Vice President for JFT Local 1702, our members often share stories about whole classes of students having to be evacuated from a classroom due to one child's behavior. I, myself, have experienced this as well while trying to give instruction.

Providing educators with clear authority to address these situations will help ensure that classrooms remain safe and supportive places for all students to learn.

Thank you for considering this legislation.

Sincerely,

Shannon Ewing
8th Grade Science Teacher

Johnston, RI