



**State of Rhode Island**  
**Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos**

March 17, 2026

Representative Joseph McNamara  
Chair, House Committee on Education  
82 Smith St, Room 101  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Letter of Support for HB7529: An Act Relating To Education -- Rights And Duties Of Teachers Generally

Dear Representative McNamara:

I write to you in support of HB7529: An Act Relating To Education -- Rights And Duties Of Teachers Generally.

This bill establishes a Bill of Rights for schoolteachers and expands the definition of a teacher in Rhode Island to include school administrators, social workers, psychologists, and others to ensure that they are covered by this bill of rights. In addition, this bill affirms every teacher's rights to a safe and healthy school environment, to be free from harassment and abuse, and to have their professional judgement respected in the workplace.

Teachers across Rhode Island work incredibly hard. They braved the pandemic, learning how to teach a generation of students through zoom. Since the return to in-person learning, I have seen how these educators have worked to create a learning environment that is safe and conducive to academic growth. Just last week I toured across the state to join in School Reading Week. I got a first-hand experience inside the classroom and saw for myself how hard our teachers are working to create a positive and growth-oriented learning environment for our students.

Educators deserve the affirmation and the confidence that comes with a bill of rights. I hope that as a state we can continue to do everything in our power to support educators, bolster the pipeline to encourage more to join the education workforce, and to express our gratitude for their hard work and sacrifice. For these reasons and many more, I urge you to vote this bill favorably out of committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabina Matos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sabina Matos

Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor

CC: Rep. William W. O'Brien