

March 17, 2026

The Honorable Chair Joseph McNamara
Chair, House Education Committee
RI State House

Re: **Support** for H7729 (Prohibition of Seclusion Classrooms)

Dear Chair McNamara:

RIPIN writes in **support** of prohibiting seclusion classrooms in RI.

RIPIN is statewide nonprofit that helps families and individuals across the lifespan with navigating special education, health care, and healthy aging. RIPIN is peer-led, meaning that most of our staff and board are parents or caregivers to a loved one with a disability. We care deeply about the well-being of children and schools are supposed to be a safe place for them to learn and grow.

RIPIN helps over 2,000 families each year with special education support. We have heard from families firsthand about how seclusion rooms are isolating and harmful to their children. We strongly believe that no child should be locked alone in a room when there are so many other options available.

While this legislation is something we support, we believe that the legislation would benefit from some technical amendments to enhance clarity. For example, it would benefit from a clear definition of “seclusion.” The Department of Justice uses a good definition: “*Seclusion is the involuntary confinement of a student alone in any room or area.*”

Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can be helpful in other ways.

Sincerely,

/s/

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