

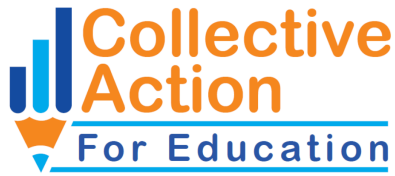
**Testimony in Support of HR8266
April 2, 2026**

TO: House Education Committee

On behalf of Collective Action for Education, I write in strong support of House Resolution 8266. This resolution takes an important first step toward addressing a challenge we all recognize: strengthening Rhode Island's educator pipeline. It brings together stakeholders who may not always agree on everything, but who share a common goal of ensuring that every classroom is led by a well-prepared, supported teacher.

Rhode Island is facing a shortage of educators, alongside certification pathways that can be difficult to navigate. HR8266 creates a thoughtful, collaborative process to examine these barriers and develop practical, common-sense solutions that bring talented individuals into the classroom and keep them in Rhode Island. Efforts like this, alongside proposals such as Representative Giraldo's work to reduce certification-related fees and barriers, help build more equitable and accessible pathways into the profession.

This resolution establishes a comprehensive, statewide framework to modernize and expand pathways into teaching while maintaining high standards. It is fundamentally a workforce strategy focused on strengthening the educator pipeline, not lowering expectations. By convening voices from across public education, including the Rhode Island Department of Education, the Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner, and representatives from multiple school sectors, HR8266 ensures that recommendations are grounded in collaboration and shared responsibility.



The goal is straightforward: make teaching more accessible and economically viable for more Rhode Islanders while ensuring quality in every classroom. This should be a priority for all of us. Fully staffed classrooms led by qualified, supported educators are essential to student success.

Collective Action for Education is committed to ensuring that every Rhode Island student, especially those in historically marginalized communities, has access to a great public school. Achieving that mission requires a strong and sustainable educator workforce. HR8266 represents a meaningful step toward rebuilding that pipeline while maintaining high standards for the profession.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge passage of HR8266 and thank Representative Diaz for her leadership in advancing this important resolution.

Andrew MacMannis

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew MacMannis".

Chief of External Affairs

Collective Action for Education