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To the House Committee on Education:

I am submitting this testimony today in support of House Resolution 8266, which proposes a commission to analyze teacher certification pathways and develop student-centered solutions to address vacancies and strengthen the educator pipeline.

As the director of a nonprofit organization, part of our mission is to address teacher shortages. We work to recruit, train, and place qualified international teachers in Rhode Island schools through a temporary work visa. Through our work focused on bilingual education and on providing a global perspective in the classroom, we have seen firsthand the challenges schools face in filling teacher vacancies.

This commission is an important step to finding the root causes of these shortages and improving teacher retention. Streamlining and expanding teacher certification pathways can attract more qualified professionals into the field, bringing diversity and new perspectives into the classroom. Through this commission and its findings, it will help ensure a stronger, more consistent pipeline of educators and improve student outcomes.

In conclusion, House Resolution 8266 offers an opportunity to strengthen Rhode Island's educator workforce by identifying barriers and expanding pathways to certification.

I want to thank Representative Grace Diaz for introducing this resolution and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Diana Capellan