

April 2, 2026

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

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Victor Capellan, and I am the Founder and CEO of Collective Action for Education. I am writing to express my strong support for House Resolution H-8266, which creates a special legislative commission to study expanding pathways into the teaching profession.

I would like to begin by thanking Representative Grace Diaz for her leadership in introducing this important resolution.

I come to you with over 25 years of experience in public education—as a school leader, a superintendent here in Rhode Island, and as a former senior advisor at the Rhode Island Department of Education. Throughout my career, I have seen firsthand the challenges our schools face in recruiting and retaining strong educators—particularly in high-need areas such as special education, bilingual education, STEM, and related fields.

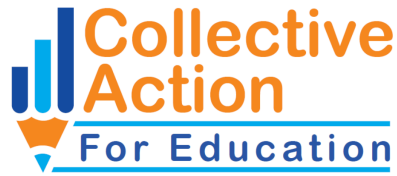
Today, through my work at Collective Action for Education, I continue to see that this is not an isolated issue. It is a persistent challenge affecting schools across our state.

At the same time, I also see a significant opportunity. There are talented, committed individuals who want to teach in our schools, but they are often met with barriers that are too complex, too costly, or simply outdated.

House Resolution H-8266 takes an important and thoughtful approach to addressing this challenge. It brings together a diverse group of stakeholders to ask critical questions:

How do we expand pathways into teaching while maintaining high standards?  
How do we remove barriers that do not serve students?  
How do we better support new teachers so they stay and succeed in the profession?

This resolution creates the space for Rhode Island to take a coordinated, system-wide look at how we strengthen our educator workforce. Importantly, it builds on and supports the ongoing work of the Rhode Island Department of Education, as well as the efforts of superintendents, school leaders, and educators across the state.



If we are going to address this challenge effectively, we must do so together. Rhode Island is well-positioned to lead in this area. We have the opportunity to design smarter, more flexible, and more effective pathways into teaching that reflect the realities of today's classrooms and the needs of our students.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support H-8266 and move it forward.

Thank you for your time and for your continued commitment to the children and families of Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Victor Capellan  
Founder & CEO  
Collective Action for Education