

Lisa Cataldi

From: Amy Pena <amypena2175@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2026 5:09 PM
To: House Education Committee
Subject: Against Bill H7414

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Dear Chair Joseph McNamara and members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Amy Pena, and I am a parent of a child in the Providence Public School District, attending Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School. I appreciate the committee's dedication to improving our schools, and I recognize the difficult decisions you face in shaping the future of Providence education. I am writing to urge you to vote AGAINST Bill No. H 7414, which would prematurely end the extension of the Turnaround Action Plan.

As a parent, I care deeply about the long-term stability and success of our schools. While I strongly believe in the importance of local control, I also believe that the timing of that transition is just as crucial as the outcome. Over the past few years, the Turnaround Action Plan has helped lay a foundation for improvement—students now have more consistent access to resources, and communication between families and schools has started to improve. However, many core challenges that led to state intervention—including low academic outcomes and system-wide instability—are still present in our daily experiences.

For example, last semester my child's class had three different teachers within a few months, creating uncertainty and disrupting their learning. Many of my conversations with other families echo these concerns: our students are still struggling to meet grade-level expectations, school systems and supports are in transition, and strong, consistent leadership remains critical at this stage.

To clarify my main priorities for readiness, I believe the transition to local control should be:

1. Thoughtful, with clear communication and support for families and staff.
2. Phased, to ensure systems are stable and new leadership is prepared.
3. Grounded in clear evidence of readiness, demonstrated by improved outcomes and feedback from those directly impacted.

We all want the best for Providence's students. I worry that moving too quickly to return control before these systems are fully stabilized could risk undoing the progress that has been made. This is not about delaying local control indefinitely, but about making sure that when the transition happens, it is set up for long-term success.

I encourage the committee to seek continued input from families and community members to help guide this critical decision. In summary, I respectfully ask that you carefully consider whether the proposed timeline allows for true readiness and prioritize a transition plan guided by student outcomes and system stability.

Thank you for your time, your commitment to the students and families of Providence, and your ongoing efforts to support our schools. I am hopeful that, together, we can continue to build on the progress made and ensure a strong future for all students.

Sincerely,
Amy Pena