

April 8, 2026

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

My name is Jackie Zappala, and I am a parent of a child in the Providence Public School District, attending Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School.

I am writing to urge you to vote **AGAINST Bill No. H 7414**, which would prematurely terminate the Turnaround Action Plan extension.

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 matters just as much as the outcome.

Over the past few years, we have begun to see signs of progress in the district. At the same time, many of the core challenges that led to state intervention—including low academic outcomes and system-wide instability—are still very much present in our day-to-day experience as families.

From my perspective as a parent:

- Our students are still struggling to meet grade-level expectations
- Many school systems and supports are still in transition
- Strong, consistent leadership remains critical at this stage

I worry that moving too quickly to return control without fully stabilizing these systems could risk undoing the progress that has been made.

This is not about delaying local control indefinitely. It's about ensuring that when that transition happens, it is:

- Thoughtful
- Phased
- Grounded in clear evidence of readiness

As a parent, what I want most is a school system that is stable, accountable, and set up for long-term success—not one that is navigating another major transition before it is ready.

I respectfully ask that you carefully consider whether the proposed timeline allows for that level of readiness, and to prioritize a transition plan that is guided by student outcomes and system stability.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to the students and families of Providence.

Sincerely,

Jackie Zappala  
*MLK PTO Representative*