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To: House Education Committee
Subject: House Bill H-7414 testimony

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My name is Margaret Mian and I am providing testimony on Bill H-7414.

I am writing as a Providence parent to ask you to oppose H7414 and not return the school district to city control right now.

I have multiple children who have gone through the Providence school system, some still in it and some that have graduated. I remember very clearly what things felt like before the takeover, the chaos and dysfunction, as well as the culture of hesitation and fear around speaking openly about problems within the system. As a parent, it's a terrible feeling to see issues and feel like your voice doesn't matter or might even cause problems for your child.

What I have seen over the past five years has been different. It's not perfect, but it is better in ways that matter. There is more community involvement. I see more parents showing up, more students engaged, and schools actually feeling like communities. The schools my children have been part of recently feel more connected and supportive than they ever did before.

One of the biggest changes for me has been communication. For the first time, it feels like we actually have access to leadership both at a school level and a district level. There is more direct communication with the superintendent and commissioner than I have ever experienced as a parent in this district. That matters. It makes a difference when families feel heard.

I want to be very clear, I do believe the schools should return to city control. But not like this, and without a clear and actionable plan. Right now, there is no clear, detailed plan for how that would happen without losing the progress that has been made. What I keep hearing from people pushing for this is about how things "used to be done." That worries me. We cannot go back to that.

Without this clear plan this feels rushed, and honestly, it feels more like a push for control, like we are just going to play it by ear and hope for the best. This is not in the best interests of our students or families.

I have also heard a lot about how much the city has done recently for our schools, especially with funding. But we shouldn't forget that the city had to be taken to court to provide that funding. That doesn't build confidence that things will be different this time without real accountability in place.

It's also frustrating to hear people say that takeovers don't work and only cause harm. That has not been my experience, or the experience of many families I know. We have seen improvements in

communication, in school culture, in student engagement, and in attendance. These are real changes that may seem small but make a difference for our kids' lives.

Please don't undo that progress without a real plan.

Our kids deserve stability. They deserve thoughtful decisions, not rushed ones. If control is going to go back to the city, then there needs to be a clear, transparent plan that shows how things will move forward without slipping backward before control is given back.

I am asking you to keep this family and student focused and not adult focused and, I am asking you to vote no on H7414 at this time.

Thank you for your time,

Margaret Mian