

April 9 2026.

Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill S2526

Dear Chairwoman Gallo and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill S2526. My name is Naiommy Baret, a parent in Providence and a proud member of Parents Leading for Educational Equity (PLEE), a parent-led organization advocating for better outcomes for children and families across Rhode Island. I write in strong opposition to this bill.

S2526 would end the state intervention in the Providence Public School District (PPSD) by July 1, 2026—well before the current turnaround timeline is complete. While there have been early conversations about returning to local control, these efforts do not yet amount to a comprehensive or actionable transition plan. Based on our direct engagement, neither the City nor the School Board has demonstrated readiness to assume full responsibility within this timeframe.

A responsible transition requires coordinated planning across governance, budget, operations, and community engagement. This is multi-year work. Moving forward prematurely risks instability in leadership, disruption to student services, and a return to systems that previously failed students.

Additionally, the terms of the current funding settlement expire in SY2027—the budget cycle currently in progress. Advancing a return to local control without a public commitment to sustainable funding for SY2028 and beyond raises serious concerns. The Commissioner has consistently stated that long-term financial stability must be a clear condition for any transition. Without that commitment, this proposal places the district at significant risk.

As parent and part of the parent leadership at PLEE- we believe deeply in local control and the role of families in governance. However, a transition must be thoughtful, transparent, and grounded in readiness—not rushed by an unrealistic timeline.

We urge the Committee to oppose S2526 and instead support a deliberate, community-driven process that ensures long-term success for Providence students and families.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Naiommy Baret
Parent Leader