

## Lisa Cataldi

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**From:** Heidi Andrews <heidiandrews28@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 6, 2026 2:32 PM  
**To:** House Education Committee  
**Subject:** Support H7421

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Please see below written testimony in support of proposed bill H7421.

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Heidi Andrews and I am a resident of Gloucester and an active community member engaged in supporting strong schools and responsible municipal governance. I am writing in strong support of H7421, which increases transparency provisions and requires reporting of partially funded and unfunded school district costs.

At the local level, we are working diligently to build a more informed, collaborative, and solutions-oriented community. A central challenge we face is the lack of clear, accessible information regarding the true cost of education—particularly the growing burden of partially funded and unfunded mandates. Without this transparency, it becomes difficult for taxpayers, school committees, and municipal leaders to fully understand what is driving budget increases and where responsibility truly lies.

H7421 addresses this issue directly by requiring consistent and transparent reporting. This is not simply a technical improvement—it is a foundational step toward rebuilding trust and enabling better decision-making at every level.

In communities like ours, where we are actively bringing together parents, educators, students, and local leaders to engage in constructive dialogue, access to accurate financial data is essential. Our goal is not to assign blame, but to identify problems clearly and work toward sustainable solutions. When the public can see which costs are state-supported and which are shifted to local taxpayers, conversations become more productive and grounded in fact.

This bill also supports equity across districts. Without standardized reporting, disparities in how mandates are funded can go unnoticed or misunderstood. Transparency ensures that all communities—regardless of size or wealth—have the information needed to advocate effectively for their students.

Importantly, H7421 aligns with a broader principle: strong finances support strong schools, and strong schools build strong communities. Transparency is the bridge that connects these goals.

I urge the Committee to support H7421 and take this important step toward greater accountability, clarity, and collaboration in education funding.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,  
Heidi Andrews  
Gloucester, Rhode Island