



Testimony in Support of House Resolution 8430

May 7, 2026

To: House Education Committee

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Charter Public Schools, I am writing to support House Resolution 8430, which would create a special legislative commission to study shared services. We believe studying shared services is a necessary step toward a stronger Rhode Island public education system.

Schools today are challenged to meet evolving student needs while facing increased operational costs and declining student enrollment. A comprehensive re-evaluation of resource allocation is timely. We believe these efforts must begin with funding formula reform and strongly support the Rhode Island Foundation's Blue Ribbon Commission recommendations. That said, this legislative commission can complement those efforts by exploring ways to create economies of scale and reduce operational costs.

By investigating shared services in tandem with funding reform, we can spend smarter. Our state's charter public schools are increasingly looking at shared services models and are eager to collaborate with district public schools in mission-aligned ways that benefit students. This approach ensures more dollars reach the classroom to impact student learning and success.

We believe this commission will lead to recommendations that strengthen our schools and create a more collaborative, less fragmented educational ecosystem. As a League, we believe we have lessons learned that we can share with districts. **We respectfully ask that the Rhode Island League of Charter Public Schools or designee be added to the Commission and urge the Committee to pass an amended H 8430 to ensure our funding structures reflect a shared commitment to educational excellence and fiscal responsibility.**

Thank you for your time and for your dedication to the children of Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lauren K. B. Matlach".

Lauren Matlach
Deputy Director, Rhode Island League of Charter Public Schools