

June 5, 2025

The Honorable Marvin Abney
Chair, House Committee on Finance
Rhode Island House of Representatives
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: House Bill H 5322

Dear Chair Abney and Honorable Committee Members:

I am writing in support of House Bill H 5322, which enables retired teachers to continue teaching in Rhode Island schools beyond the ninety-day cap in certain circumstances. As you are likely aware, school districts around the region and country are facing acute staffing challenges in high need areas, particularly in the subjects of special education, mathematics, and science. Despite extensive recruitment efforts, the Providence Public School District (PPSD) still faces challenges with finding educators to fill positions in these growing areas of need. Retirees fill a vital need as they are both certified and experienced in these subject areas in ways that a day-to-day substitute may not be. Presently, PPSD has 36 retirees working beyond 90 days and filling critical classroom vacancies; if this provision is not extended for next year.

Best,



Javier Montañez, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

CC:

The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance
House Representative William W. O'Brien