

May 9, 2025

Support Letter for House Bill 6255  
Submitted to the House Committee on Finance  
The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chair  
Rhode Island House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Committee:

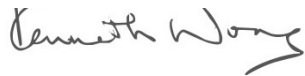
In 2009 and 2010, I worked closely with RIDE and the General Assembly on the development of the state's current education funding formula. As part of that process, and in recognition of the severe fiscal limitations of the City of Central Falls—due both to low property valuation and high poverty rates—our research team and RIDE proposed the establishment of the **Central Falls Stabilization Fund**, which was adopted as law during the 2010 General Assembly session.

The Stabilization Fund was intended to finance (a) **the core education costs** for the Central Falls School District and (b) **the “non-core” costs**, which include transportation, school building upkeep, retiree health benefits, tuition payments for outplaced special education students, and tuition payments to charter schools.

Since September 2024, I have worked with the Central Falls Office of Education Strategy to review how the Stabilization Fund has functioned since its inception. We learned that the Stabilization Fund has fluctuated over time and occasionally fallen below the level to cover the intended costs. Findings of our review are incorporated in the language used in **House Bill 6255**, which aims to address the original intent of the Central Falls Stabilization Fund – ensuring predictable, proper, and transparent funding for all the students of Central Falls.

Having spent decades studying systems of school governance nationwide, I can also attest to the thorough community process that the Central Falls Office of Education Strategy initiated and led over the past year. The result, as specified in **House Bill 6255**, is a coherent local governance framework both grounded in evidence-based research and well-fitted to the collective sentiment of the Central Falls community.

Sincerely,



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*Director of Urban Education Policy Program*  
*Brown University*  
*Providence, R.I.*