

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney  
Chair, House Committee on Finance  
Rhode Island House of Representatives

The Honorable Jacob Bissaillon  
Chair, Senate Committee on Housing and Municipal Government  
Rhode Island Senate

Dear Chairman Abney and Chairman Bissaillon:

**I write to strongly endorse the passage of House Bill 6255 and Senate Bill 1063**, which would both restore local governance of the Central Falls School District and ensure the sustainability and predictability of district funding. This legislation finally gives the people of Central Falls—families, educators, and local leaders—a voice in the future of their schools.

**I have been an educator in Central Falls since 2013.** Within that time I have worked with various grades (3-8) and have witnessed first hand how the state has taken the ability for students and families to have a voice in their education, while surrounding cities have strong parent input and ability to have a say in their children's education. I decided to join the Community Advisory Board (CAB) in hope to provide a change for the students and families in regards to this matter. The community advisory board reached a strong consensus, recommending a 9-member hybrid School Board (5 appointed and 4 elected members). **These bills build on over a year of listening and learning from hundreds in the Central Falls community and the work of a dedicated community advisory board**, with leaders from the city, schools, and local and state labor partners. The passage of these bills will empower those who know the students and community best. **Local control means accountability, transparency, and a direct investment in children's success.**

Not only will these bills allow our students and their families to have a voice, these bills also make good on the state's intentions for the Central Falls Stabilization Fund, **ensuring predictable, proper, and transparent funding for all the students of Central Falls.** And these bills **leverage the community's local assets to bring revenue to the school district**, directing that any state Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) revenues from the Wyatt Detention Facility—currently the only detention center in Rhode Island excluded from the PILOT program—be used to support the Stabilization Fund, all without adding costs to the state. This creative solution will **provide the city time it needs to take control of the schools and identify financial efficiency opportunities and address financial concerns.**

In short, the time has come to change the status quo after 34 years of state control. It is time that Central Falls be treated like their surrounding districts and other districts throughout Rhode Island. **House Bill 6255 and Senate Bill 1063 ensure that families, educators, and local leaders shape the future of the city's schools, while also providing a financially responsible path forward.**

Sincerely,  
Sara Rainone  
Central Falls Teachers Union COPE Director