

Meadowbrook Waldorf School: AGAINST House Bill No. 6236

Testimony Opposing H6236

Jen Carr | Parent at Meadowbrook Waldorf School

Good afternoon, Chairperson and members of the committee,

My name is Jen Carr, and I am a parent at Meadowbrook Waldorf School in Richmond—the only Waldorf school in Rhode Island.

At Meadowbrook, **44% of families receive discounted tuition**, and **40% rely on bus transportation**. For many of us, that transportation is the only public service we receive in return for our taxes—and this bill would take even that away.

I urge you to vote **no** on H6236.

This bill unfairly penalizes families in **South County** who choose independent, parochial, or CTE schools. We are not families asking for special treatment—we are simply asking for fair access to the transportation we rely on.

And let's be clear: we are not wealthy families. Nearly half of Meadowbrook families receive tuition assistance. While this bill aims to save the state \$3.5 million, it does so at the expense of working- and middle-class families in South County who are simply trying to find the right educational fit for their children.

Rhode Island already struggles with affordability and family retention. This bill makes things worse—especially in areas like South County, where distances are greater and educational options are fewer.

While the proposed redistricting may help relieve burdens in **Region 3**, it risks **cutting transportation access in areas like South County**, where families already face long drives and limited choices. That's not reform—it's shifting the burden to those with the fewest alternatives.

Equitable solutions must consider the needs of *all* regions. Cost-saving in one area shouldn't come at the expense of families in another.

Every child deserves a safe, reliable way to get to school—no matter which school their family chooses or where they live.

Thank you.