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May 20, 2025

House Finance Committee and  
Representative Jon D. Brien and  
Representative Robert Phillips

Re: H6236

Gentlemen;

I am writing as a parent of four children who have attended Catholic schools in Rhode Island and as a dedicated teacher in a private school. I wish to express my strong opposition to any legislative proposals that would eliminate or reduce school bus transportation services for nonpublic school students.

Throughout the years, my family, like many others who choose private education, has consistently paid taxes that support our public school system, despite not utilizing its services. This financial contribution underscores our commitment to the broader educational community in our state. The provision of transportation for nonpublic school students is one of the few public services we rely upon, and its removal would place an undue burden on families already managing both taxes and tuition fees.

The cost associated with transporting the relatively small number of nonpublic school students is minimal when compared to the potential financial impact on the public school system should these students be forced to transfer due to transportation barriers. Such a shift could lead to increased class sizes and strain on public resources.

As an educator, I have observed firsthand how the additional expense of private transportation can influence a family's decision regarding their child's education. Removing this support could inadvertently lead to a higher enrollment in public schools, thereby increasing costs and potentially affecting the quality of education for all students.

I urge you to consider the broader implications of such a policy change and to continue supporting transportation services for all students, regardless of the type of school they attend. Ensuring equitable access to education is a cornerstone of our community's values.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued service to our state.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Dickinson