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**Chris O'Brien**

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**From:** edav12 <edav12@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2026 3:11 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Rule of 90  
**Attachments:** Dear Members of the House Finance Committee, - Google Docs.pdf  
**Categories:** Red category

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To: House Finance Committee

Rhode Island General Assembly,

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Elena Davidson, a third grade teacher at Lillian Feinstein at Sackett Street School in Providence.

I am writing as a Providence teacher to express my strong support for the proposed Rule of 90 retirement legislation currently under your consideration.

Under the current Rule of 95, many Providence educators are required to work significantly longer before becoming eligible to retire without penalty. In our district, it is very common for teachers to have well over 25 years of dedicated service to students and families. Teaching in Providence is both physically and emotionally demanding, and over time, the increasing responsibilities, stress, and intensity of the work contribute to significant burnout among experienced educators.

One of the most concerning realities in our profession is the impact this extended retirement timeline has on teachers' health and wellbeing. In some cases, educators become seriously ill or pass away before they are able to retire and receive the full pension benefits they have earned through decades of service. Teachers devote their careers to supporting children and strengthening our communities, and they deserve the opportunity to retire while they are still healthy enough to enjoy the retirement they have worked for.

In addition, the rising cost of living in Rhode Island places further strain on long-serving educators who are trying to plan responsibly for their futures. Many Providence teachers who have dedicated decades to our schools are increasingly concerned about whether they will be able to retire with financial stability and dignity under the current system.

The Rule of 90 legislation would provide a more reasonable and fair pathway to retirement. It would help reduce burnout, improve teacher wellbeing, and strengthen retention in our schools. It would also support recruitment efforts, as many prospective educators are discouraged by the current requirement of working well over 30 years before retirement eligibility. Providence schools are already facing staffing shortages, and this legislation would help make teaching a more sustainable and attractive profession.

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Supporting the Rule of 90 is an investment in the stability of our education system, the health of our educators, and the success of our students. Allowing experienced teachers a realistic retirement option will also help create opportunities to bring new educators into the profession at a time when districts urgently need staffing support.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the House Finance Committee to support the Rule of 90 legislation. Providence teachers have dedicated their professional lives to serving students and families, and they deserve a fair, humane, and sustainable path to retirement.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

**Elena Davidson**

Providence Teacher

Lillian Feinstein at Sackett Street School

Elena A. Davidson