

Chris O'Brien

From: Pacheco, Luana <Luana.Pacheco@ppsd.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 8:57 AM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Rule of 90 Bill 2023-H 5092 and 2023 -S 86

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To: House Finance Committee
Rhode Island General Assembly

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing to strongly urge you to support the Rule of 90 retirement legislation.

Providence teachers are being asked to give more than ever before—more time, more energy, and more of themselves, yet the current Rule of 95 requires them to remain in the classroom long after many have reached their limit. It is not unusual for teachers here to have well over 25 years of service, and still be years away from retirement eligibility.

This has real consequences. Teachers are burning out. Their health is declining. Some are forced to continue working through serious illness. Others never reach retirement at all. After a lifetime of service, that is simply unacceptable.

The rising cost of living only adds to the pressure, making it even harder for educators to see a clear and secure path to retirement.

The Rule of 90 is a necessary and compassionate solution. It would allow teachers to retire before their health is compromised beyond repair. It would also help address the growing difficulty in recruiting new teachers, who are discouraged by the current system.

Providence schools need experienced educators; but they also need a system that recognizes when enough is enough. Supporting the Rule of 90 is about fairness, respect, and basic dignity.

I urge you to take action and support this legislation.

Sincerely,
Luana Pacheco
Providence Teacher

Luana Pacheco
Special Educator
Lillian Feinstein Elementary School @ Sackett Street
159 Sackett Street
Providence, R.I. 02907
phone: (401) 456-9407
fax: (401) 453-8658