

April 15, 2026

Rhode Island House Committee on Finance

Rhode Island State House

Providence, RI

Dear Chair and Members of the House Finance Committee,

As a recently retired public school teacher in Rhode Island, I am writing in support of House Bill H7390. I am speaking on behalf of my former colleagues who continue to be affected by prior changes in the law that impacted retirement eligibility.

Like many educators, I dedicated decades of service to Rhode Island's students. Changes to the pension system have required many public employees to work longer than they originally planned. I witnessed firsthand how these changes affected my colleagues' morale, financial stability, and career decisions.

H7390 offers a fair and reasonable adjustment by allowing retirement at age 60 with 30 years of service, while still preserving existing eligibility pathways. For those who began their careers early and have already given 30 years or more to public service, this option recognizes both their commitment and the demanding nature of the profession.

Although I am already retired, I strongly support this bill because I know how much it would benefit those still working. This legislation is about fairness and respect for long-serving public employees. It provides flexibility without taking anything away from those who choose to continue working.

I urge you to support H7390 so that current and future retirees are given a more reasonable and dignified path to retirement.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for your service to the people of Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Marlene Prichard

Retired Teacher

East Providence, RI