

Chris O'Brien

From: Riccio, Susan <Susan.Riccio@ppsd.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 9:32 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Rule of 90 -Bill 2023-H-5092. 2023-586

Categories: Red category

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express strong support for the adoption and preservation of the "Rule of 90" for teachers in Providence. (Bill 2023-H-5092 2023-586)

The Rule of 90—allowing educators to retire with full benefits when the combined total of their age and years of service equals 90—is a fair and practical policy that recognizes the demanding nature of the teaching profession. Teaching is not simply a job; it is a career that requires sustained emotional, mental, and physical effort over decades. Providing a pathway for experienced educators to retire with dignity is both reasonable and necessary.

This policy also benefits the school system as a whole. It creates opportunities for workforce renewal, allowing districts to bring in new teachers while honoring the commitment of veteran educators who have dedicated their lives to serving students. Retaining the Rule of 90 helps maintain morale, encourages long-term commitment to the profession, and makes teaching a more attractive career choice for future educators.

Furthermore, many teachers begin their careers at a relatively young age and spend decades in the classroom. Without policies like the Rule of 90, they may be forced to continue working well beyond the point where they can perform at their best, which ultimately impacts both educators and students.

Supporting the Rule of 90 is a commitment to fairness, respect, and the long-term health of our education system. It acknowledges the value of experience while ensuring that teachers are not penalized for their years of dedicated service.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Susan Riccio
Providence Public Schools

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