

## Chris O'Brien

---

**From:** Libby Merrill <libby.merrill@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2026 12:22 PM  
**To:** Rep. Abney, Marvin L.; House Finance Committee  
**Cc:** Rep. Furtado, Jenni Azanero; Rep. Boylan, Jennifer  
**Subject:** Support for House Bill 7163 - Foundation Level School Support

You don't often get email from libby.merrill@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Committee Chair Abney, Members of the House Finance Committee, Representative Furtado and Representative Boylan:

I am writing today in support of House Bill 7163. I am a resident of East Providence. Thank you to my Representative, Jenni Furtado, and to Riverside Representative, Jennifer Boylan, for co-sponsoring this bill.

This bill provides important protections against school vouchers, which would take public K-12 education dollars and use them for scholarships to private schools. Public schools are publicly funded and need full funding. Families who opt out of public schools make that choice knowing that they will have to pay out of pocket for tuition.

Requiring a general assembly vote to approve vouchers establishes an important protection against a governor making a unilateral decision. We need additional protections now at the state level as the federal government tries to dessimate public education.

Public schools need to remain free and accessible to all students. Keep public money in public schools.

Sincerely,

Libby Merrill  
East Providence, 02914