



RHODE ISLAND
FEDERATION OF TEACHERS AND
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AFT
AFL - CIO

To: House Finance Committee
From: Jeremy Sencer, RIFTHP Field Representative
Date: April 28, 2026
Re: Central Falls School Construction Authorization
Testimony in **Support of H 8300** (Giraldo, et al.)

On behalf of RIFTHP, I submit testimony in support of H 8300, legislation that enables critical investment in school facilities by authorizing the City of Central Falls to finance much-needed construction and renovation projects.

Students and educators in Central Falls deserve safe, modern, and well-maintained school facilities that support teaching and learning. Many school buildings in high-need districts require ongoing investment to address aging infrastructure and ensure that students have access to appropriate learning environments.

H 8300 authorizes the city to move forward with up to \$25 million in bonding to support construction, renovation, and improvement of school facilities. This authorization is necessary to implement projects that have already received voter approval and to ensure that planned improvements can proceed without delay.

For Central Falls, this investment is especially important. As one of Rhode Island's highest-need communities, the district faces significant challenges while serving a large population of students requiring additional supports. Ensuring that school facilities are safe and functional is a fundamental part of providing an equitable education.

Modern school buildings directly support student learning, educator effectiveness, and overall school climate. Investments in facilities are investments in students, educators, and the long-term success of the community.

For these reasons, RIFTHP urges the Committee to support H 8300.

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