



State of Rhode Island
Office of the General Treasurer

James A. Diossa
General Treasurer

28 April 2026

The Honorable Marvin Abney
Chair, House Committee on Finance

The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance

RE: *2026-H 8429 – An Act Relating to Education – School Committees and Superintendents*

Chair Abney:

I write in support of 2026-H 8429, which will re-establish local governance of the Central Falls school system. For the past 35 years, administration of Central Falls schools has been subject to state supervision. When the state first assumed oversight, it inherited a system in crisis; one that was failing students, teachers, and the greater community. Over the intervening years, the city and state have worked cooperatively to rebuild a functional foundation that can deliver positive educational outcomes for our youth. I bore personal witness to the progress Central Falls has made first as a member of the city council and later during eight years as Mayor of Central Falls.

But to build on that progress, the city must now have functional administration of its schools. Oversight by an elected school committee – rather than by a state entity – will ensure decisions made in schools and impacting students and educators are made with direct community input. In many ways, schools are a microcosm of the communities they serve. And while our state may be small, we know each of our communities are distinct and serve children and families with unique needs. I can tell you with certainty that Central Falls is no exception.

For that reason, I respectfully urge this Committee to entrust the future development of Central Falls' youth with the community and with a local school committee chosen by the voters and their representatives in government.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "James A. Diossa".

James A. Diossa
General Treasurer