

Anthony Melillo
Cranston School Committee, City Wide
Vice Chairman
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To the Honorable Members of the Rhode Island House of Representatives,

I am writing in support of House Bill 7460, legislation that would allow local school districts and municipalities the opportunity to opt out of the statewide student transportation system if they can demonstrate a more cost-effective alternative.

As Vice Chairman of the Cranston School Committee and someone who strongly believes in local control and fiscal responsibility, I support efforts that provide communities with greater flexibility in managing their resources while still ensuring students receive safe and reliable transportation services.

Every district faces unique challenges regarding geography, student population, traffic patterns, and transportation needs. Allowing municipalities and school districts the ability to explore alternative transportation models could lead to improved efficiency, reduced costs, and better service for students and families. Most importantly, this legislation does not mandate participation—it simply provides districts with an option if they can prove their plan is financially sound and operationally effective.

At a time when school districts across Rhode Island continue to face increasing financial pressures from unfunded mandates, rising operational costs, and budget constraints, legislation such as House Bill 7460 gives local communities another tool to responsibly manage taxpayer dollars while maintaining essential services for students.

I believe local leaders are often best positioned to understand the needs of their communities, and this bill respects that principle by allowing flexibility while still maintaining accountability standards.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation and for your continued commitment to Rhode Island's students, families, and taxpayers.

Respectfully,

Anthony Melillo

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