

WEST WARWICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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**ADMINISTRATION
BUILDING**

Miriam A. Duffy School

10 Harris Avenue

West Warwick, RI 02893

April 12, 2024

Dear Representative Noret:

I offer this letter in support of House Bill 7303 currently under consideration by the Rhode Island General Assembly. As the current Superintendent of School for the West Warwick Public School System, this proposed legislation is a necessary safeguard in addressing the threats and hostility that school personnel handle when dealing with the general public in their capacity as municipal employees.

During my tenure as Superintendent, and previously in my role as the West Warwick High School Principal, there have been several times when both myself and my family members have been threatened verbally, on-line, via email and in person. There have been times I felt threatened and afraid to the point of filing police reports both in the town I work in, as well as the town in which I reside. This is the unfortunate reality of public figures in current times. Sadly, some people have no boundaries and feel they can impose hostility on those of us working hard to provide the best educational experience we can for our students and their families in very challenging times.

H7303 demonstrates a commitment to supporting school employees who are often the face of the community and interact more frequently and intimately with the general public than some elected public officials. The potential to bring about positive change in our state and community will provide peace of mind to many educators. I appreciate your efforts in moving this bill forward and your sponsorship of such legislation that would help provide a strong sense of protection for school personnel. Your unwavering advocacy for public schools is greatly appreciated, and we are fortunate to have you in our corner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen A. Tarasevich". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light blue rectangular background.

Karen A. Tarasevich, M.Ed
Superintendent of Schools