

Roberta DiMezza

From: Lima, Jennifer <jennifer_lima@nksd.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 1:46 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Cc: Sen. Valverde, Bridget G.
Subject: H7356

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I am writing today in support of H7356 which would provide for a comprehensive criminal and employment background check procedure for all school employees.

In line with the legislation introduced by Senator Bridget Valverde last year to track the termination of non-credentialed school employees terminated for good and just cause (2025-S0633) this is a very real issue.

The list that RIDE currently maintains per RIGL 16-13 is a good and necessary thing, but it doesn't go far enough in protecting students. It only addresses teachers who have been terminated. It doesn't cover situations where a teacher resigns in lieu of a termination either before or after an investigation has been completed.

In addition, teachers are not the only people in the school district. There are other employees who do not hold any type of certification who - if terminated for inappropriate behavior with a student that doesn't rise to the level of a criminal offense - could be working in another district with the administrators there none the wiser. If a district has determined someone should not be around their students, then they shouldn't be around any students. Or at the very least, it should be a conscious decision by the hiring district to place them there.

Requiring background checks and other information pertaining to an applicant's employment history as it specifically relates to allegations of misconduct is another layer of protection for our students.

Thank you,
Jennifer Lima
School Committee Member

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Jennifer Lima (she/her/hers)
North Kingstown School Committee Member
[Why Pronouns Matter](#)

[Talking About Pronouns in the Workplace - HRC Foundation \(thehrcfoundation.org\)](https://www.hrcfoundation.org/our-work/diversity-equity-inclusion/talking-about-pronouns-in-the-workplace)

"Diversity is a fact. Equity is a choice. Inclusion is an action. Belonging is an outcome." - Arthur Chan

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