



WEST WARWICK TEACHERS' ALLIANCE

American Federation of Teachers, Local 1017

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Giuseppe Lancellotta

To: The Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee
From: Paul Bovenzi, President, West Warwick Teachers' Alliance
Date: February 10, 2026
Re: Support for House Bill 7552

Good afternoon,

My name is Paul Bovenzi. I am the President of the West Warwick Teachers' Alliance, Local 1017, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of our members. We strongly urge your favorable consideration and action on HB7552. I believe that this legislation takes positive steps toward protecting the safety and well-being of our educators, and am grateful that it has been put before you.

This bill takes significant steps to address the dangers facing our members by classifying them as Public Officials. This recognizes their essential role in the community and provides them with the legal protection afforded to other public servants. In addition, by making a threat against our members or their immediate family, a felony offense for any individual aged 18 or older, the bill sends a clear and unequivocal message: threats against educators will not be tolerated and will be met with an appropriately serious response..

I believe that passing this bill will have an immediate and positive impact, most importantly for the security of our hard-working members. It will serve as a powerful deterrent, providing a necessary layer of protection for our educators and their families against targeted harassment and intimidation. When our members feel safe and secure, they can focus entirely on providing a high-quality education to our students.

As President of the West Warwick Teachers' Alliance, I respectfully ask that you support and advance HB7552. By doing so, you will affirm your commitment to the safety of our educators and ensure that those who threaten them face consequences commensurate with the seriousness of their actions.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this vital legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul J. Bovenzi

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