



Testimony in Support of Joint Resolution H7974

March 5, 2026

To: House Labor Committee

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Charter Public Schools, I write to express our support for H7974, which would create a special legislative commission to study and develop recommendations regarding the potential creation of a statewide healthcare plan for teachers.

High-quality educators are the backbone of Rhode Island's public education system, which includes district public schools, charter public schools, and state public schools. Ensuring that teachers across this entire system have access to affordable, reliable healthcare is essential not only for supporting their well-being but for strengthening recruitment and retention and financial viability of our public school system.

Currently, teacher health insurance is negotiated and administered at the district level, resulting in significant variation in plan design, costs, and access to care across municipalities. These disparities can create inequities for educators and challenges for school systems attempting to compete for and retain talent. As the resolution notes, the existing district-by-district approach has produced substantial differences in coverage, cost-sharing, and access to care for teachers depending on where they work.

Establishing a legislative commission to study a potential statewide plan is a thoughtful step. A comprehensive review can help policymakers examine potential benefits such as economies of scale, greater equity among educators, and improved predictability in education and municipal budgeting. It is also essential that we ensure this commission has representatives from across our public school landscape: district, charter, and statewide. We encourage this committee to add representation from charter public schools to the Commission.

H7974 does not mandate any immediate structural change. Instead, it ensures that Rhode Island undertakes a careful, data-driven analysis of the current system and explores whether a statewide model could better support educators and the public education system as a whole. Bringing together stakeholders to study this issue will help ensure that any recommendations are balanced, transparent, and grounded in the realities facing schools and educators.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to **support H7974**.



We look forward to the opportunity to study this issue alongside our public school peers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CDeltito". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small flourish at the end.

Chiara Deltito-Sharrott
Executive Director
Rhode Island League of Charter Public Schools