



April 15, 2026

The Honorable Arthur J. Corvese, Chairman
House Labor Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: House Bill 7291, An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations – Labor Relations Act

Dear Chairman Corvese:

On behalf of our Mayoral Academies, we respectfully write to express our opposition to House Bill 7291.

Our concern is straightforward: this legislation establishes a process that allows a minority of employees to initiate a significant workplace change. Specifically, the bill permits just 30% of a workforce to trigger a representation election, which could ultimately lead to outcomes that affect 100% of employees.

We believe this threshold is fundamentally undemocratic. Decisions of this magnitude should reflect clear and broad support from a majority of employees, not be initiated by a minority. Lowering the bar in this way risks creating division within workplaces and undermines confidence in the fairness of the process.

Employees today already have established, well-understood pathways to pursue collective bargaining if they choose to do so. There is no demonstrated need to alter that framework in a way that shifts the balance toward minority-initiated action.

As school leaders, we are committed to fostering strong, collaborative workplace cultures that support our staff and our students. We believe this legislation moves in the opposite direction.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our perspective on H7291.

Sincerely,

Sarah Anderson
CEO, Blackstone Valley Prep

Tom McDermott
Executive Director, Rhode Island Achievement First

Owen Stearns
CEO, Excel Academy

cc: House Labor Committee members

Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel, Office of House Speaker Joseph Shekarchi