



Testimony in Support of S2212

April 13, 2026

To: Senate Education Committee

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Charter Schools, I write to express our support for S2212. Rhode Island schools continue to face persistent challenges with educator recruitment and retention. S2212 responds to these challenges by easing financial burdens for educators. We particularly support the waiver of state certification fees, which will provide meaningful and immediate relief to educators amidst rising costs of living.

The bill references the waiver of Praxis examination fees. Those fees are set and administered by an external testing vendor and are not within the regulatory authority of the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Clarifying this distinction would help ensure alignment between legislative intent and administrative capacity, while preserving the bill's core goal of supporting educator recruitment and retention.

Equally important, S2212 directs RIDE to review and revise licensure regulations to create multiple pathways into the profession. By recognizing non-traditional coursework, work and life experience, and demonstrated competency, the bill expands access for qualified and diverse candidates while maintaining appropriate standards. These flexibilities are especially valuable for schools serving historically underserved communities, where staffing shortages can have an outsized impact on students.

For these reasons, the Rhode Island League of Charter Schools respectfully urges the Senate Education Committee to amend and support S2212. We appreciate your leadership and continued commitment to policies that strengthen public education across our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lauren K. B. Matlach".

Lauren K. B. Matlach
Deputy Director, Rhode Island League of Charter Public Schools