

Marc B. Parlange, Ph.D., P.Eng.
President

March 25, 2026

Honorable Hanna Gallo, Chair
Senate Education Committee
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Letter of Concern for S. 2432 Guaranteed Admission for Eagle Scout and Gold Award Recipients

Dear Chair Gallo and honorable members of the education committee,

As the state's public flagship R1 research university, the University of Rhode Island (URI), admits all qualified Rhode Islanders that apply. To qualify, students must have the academic background, grades, and rigor of coursework to be eligible for admission. This is critical to a student's ability to be successful at the University.

The primary emphasis of URI's review process is on the high school record, rigor of courses, grades, and unique talents and experiences. We value the impact of Scouting America and Girl Scouts of the USA and recognize the prestige of the Eagle Scout ranking and receiving Gold Award.

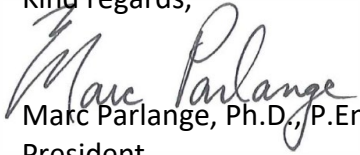
However, S. 2432 would undermine the University's admissions standards by providing guaranteed admissions for Eagle Scout and Gold Award recipients, without providing a sufficiently clear exemption that would preserve the integrity of URI's admissions process. Moreover, this legislation would set a precedent for legislative mandates to dictate admissions standards.

Specifically, all applicants must complete a minimum of 18 units of college preparatory work in the subjects below:

- 4 units in english
- 3 units in mathematics including algebra 1, algebra 2, and geometry.
- 2 units in a physical or natural science (including at least one laboratory science)
- 2 units in history or social science
- 2 units in the same foreign language. STAMPS test accepted.
- 5 additional college preparatory units to total 18. Students are encouraged to select their additional units from the areas of english, foreign language, mathematics, social science, or laboratory science.

While the University considers an applicant's Eagle Scout and Gold Award as a strong indicator of unique talents and experiences, that qualification on its own is not determinative of success at the University. We respectfully request that the legislation provide a clear exemption for URI in order to maintain the integrity of the admissions process and ensure qualified students are admitted.

Kind regards,


Marc Parlange, Ph.D., P.Eng.
President

CC: Governor McKee
Senate President Valarie Lawson