

From: [Olivia Caronna](#)
To: [S Legislation](#); [Sen. Lawson, Valarie J](#); [Sen. de la Cruz, Jessica](#)
Subject: OPPOSE: S-2783, S-2784 & S-2787
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Madam President, Chairwoman, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my **strong opposition** to S-2783, S-2784, and S-2787, which would significantly restrict charter school growth, governance, and access in Rhode Island. This is not a neutral “pause” this is an overstep of educational rights that will have long-term consequences for some of the most vulnerable of our students. In an age where “diversity, equity, and inclusion” are highly sought after, I am puzzled at how the state would seek to deny students of that equity in a quality education that works for me. It is apparent that different students depend on diverse learning environments, not all are fit for the traditional institution of public schooling. To constrict growth and innovation is to protect the teachers unions at the expense of our children. Because the reality is, it is more than a simple “funding issue”, but we must ask ourselves, does education funding belong primarily to an institution, or can we agree that it belongs to the children and families of which the funding is intended to educate.

At a time when families are actively seeking more high-quality public school options, these bills would reduce education choice, limit access to successful schools, and prevent the kind of innovation our public education system desperately needs. Our district schools are failing our children and I do not believe that a student's potential, success, or equal opportunity at a quality education should be limited to their zip code.

A recent poll makes clear where Rhode Islanders stand so to pass these 3 bills, especially the moratorium is tone deaf to the people's voice. In RI, 88% believe families should be able to choose the type of public school that best meets their child's needs. 67% support expanding charter schools — including 83% of Hispanic voters. 58% oppose a moratorium.

I respectfully urge you to oppose all three bills and preserve the ability of charter schools to grow, innovate, and serve the families (30,000) who are counting on them.

Best,
Olivia Caronna
Johnston, RI