



Testimony in Opposition of SB2784

May 13, 2026

TO: Senate Education Committee

My name is Andrew MacMannis, and I serve as Chief of External Affairs for Collective Action for Education. I am writing to express my opposition to Senate Bill 2784, which seeks to prohibit the approval of new network charter school applications in Rhode Island.

This bill does not improve quality by prohibiting the expansion of charter networks; instead, it limits the range of educational options available to Rhode Island families and educators. It restricts the ability of proven schools to grow and serve more students in communities where waitlist demand and demonstrated success are evident.

The existing charter authorization process in Rhode Island is already rigorous and selective. Every application, whether from a standalone school or a network, is judged on merit, academic track record, community need, and fiscal responsibility. This bill, as proposed, reduces flexibility, innovation, and access within our public school ecosystem.

I urge you to consider the potential negative impact this legislation may have on educational diversity. Please vote against SB2784. Let's maintain a public education system that supports growth where it is earned, and fosters innovation that benefits Rhode Island students.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew MacMannis".

Andrew MacMannis