



Testimony Opposing S2784 and S2787 Relating to the Establishment of Charter Public Schools

May 13, 2026

To: Senate Education Committee

I am writing in opposition to Senate Bills 2784 and 2787. These bills would fundamentally undermine our state's progress in providing high-quality public education options, including charter public schools, career and technical education programs, and other programs, to students.

Like so many education supporters in Rhode Island, the League of Charter Public Schools wants every child and every public school to have access to a high quality public education. Charter public schools are public schools, and they are funded at lower levels than district public schools. On average, charter public schools operate with \$4,354 per pupil less per student than the state average. At the same time, they face real limits on facilities funding and long-term financing. So this conversation should not be about blaming one type of public school for the struggles of another.

Rhode Island's funding formula is supposed to support students wherever they learn within the public education system. We accept that when a student attends a career and technical program outside their home district or receives services in another setting. In those cases, all the dollars follow the student.

We don't hear folks saying that a family moving towns or selecting a specialized CTE program are draining the districts. We aren't having conversations about the families who choose to leave the public system entirely to homeschool or attend private school. So we must question why charter public school families are being singled out. There seems to be no parallel discussion about limiting the expansion of other public school options like CTE programs.

Instead of scapegoating charter public schools, we need to focus instead on the real, systemic challenges facing Rhode Island's entire public education system.

I understand that district public schools are feeling a funding strain. Charter public schools feel it too. The current funding formula is falling short for too many schools and too many districts.



I had the opportunity to serve on the Rhode Island Foundation's Blue Ribbon Commission and saw firsthand what can happen when people work together to solve shared challenges. I strongly support the [Commission's recommendations](#), which are reflected in [Senate Bill 3015](#). **But I reject Senate Bills 2787 and 2784, which only try to pin systemic problems on the backs of families seeking additional public school options and opportunities.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chiara Deltito-Sharrott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small flourish at the end.

Chiara Deltito-Sharrott
Executive Director, Rhode Island League of Charter Public Schools