

From: [Frank Ritz](#)
To: [SLegislation](#)
Subject: S2786 - support
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To the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Frank Ritz, and I serve as a Councilman for the City of Cranston. I am writing in support of S2787, which establishes a temporary moratorium on new charter school approvals and expansions while reducing Rhode Island's statewide charter cap.

As local officials continue facing rising costs, budget pressures, and increasing demands on municipal services, it is important that Rhode Island take a thoughtful pause to evaluate the long-term fiscal and educational impacts of continued charter expansion. Public schools are responsible for serving every student who walks through the door, including students with significant academic, behavioral, and special education needs, regardless of circumstance.

While charter schools were originally intended to serve as centers for innovation within public education, Rhode Island has increasingly developed a fragmented parallel system that places additional financial strain on traditional public school districts and municipalities. Urban communities in particular continue to absorb the greatest impact from enrollment shifts and funding transfers.

This legislation does not eliminate charter schools. Instead, it provides an opportunity for the state to evaluate sustainability, equity, district stability, and educational outcomes before approving additional expansion during a time of declining enrollment and significant investment in school infrastructure statewide.

As a local elected official, I believe we must ensure that decisions made at the state level do not unintentionally destabilize the neighborhood public schools that continue to serve the overwhelming majority of Rhode Island students.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Frank Ritz

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