

From: [Andrew M. Nearbin](#)
To: [S Legislation](#)
Subject: Support for S2787
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To the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Andrew Nearbin, and I am a high school science teacher in Providence.

I support S2787 because Rhode Island public schools are already facing significant pressures related to staffing, student needs, and limited resources. In my experience as a teacher, schools are being asked to do more every year while managing large class sizes, increasing behavioral and academic needs, and ongoing staffing shortages.

As a science teacher, I also see the challenges schools face in maintaining strong STEM education programs. Many public schools are dealing with limited lab supplies, outdated materials, and difficulties retaining highly qualified STEM educators. At a time when Rhode Island should be investing in expanding STEM and CTE opportunities within existing public high schools, districts are instead being stretched thinner financially.

Public schools serve all students, including English language learners, students with disabilities, and students requiring intensive academic and social-emotional support. Continued charter expansion places additional strain on districts already working to provide these services while maintaining academic programming.

I believe Rhode Island should focus on strengthening neighborhood public schools by investing in modern labs, career and technical education pathways, student supports, and the retention of highly educated teachers in critical shortage areas such as science and mathematics.

S2787 provides an opportunity for the state to pause and carefully evaluate the long-term fiscal and educational impacts of continued charter expansion before moving forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

Andrew M. Nearbin, MS