

**From:** [Barbara Labree](#)  
**To:** [SLegislation](#)  
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Dear Senators,

Please consider supporting S2787 on Wednesday May 13, 2026.

As a Rhode Island educator for over 30 years, I have seen the number of students in my public school reduce drastically. When I began as a kindergarten teacher in 1995 I was responsible for 25 morning and 25 afternoon kindergarteners. There was a second kindergarten with just as many students. The total was 100 kindergarteners. At the same time, my school housed 7 first grade classrooms of 23 students each. A total of 161 first graders! Today, we have three full-day kindergarten classes servicing 66 total students and our four first grade classes service 60 children total. The decline is astounding!

While the state is seeing a decline in enrollment overall, the drastic change in numbers cannot be fully contributed to

that one factor.

Please vote to approve a temporary pause on expansion of charter schools and reduce the statewide cap so Rhode Island can evaluate the long term fiscal sustainability, educational outcomes and equity concerns before expanding the system further.

Thank you!  
Barbara LaBree

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