

**Subject: Oppose Senate Bill 2787 – Protect Educational Opportunity for Rhode Island Families**

Chandana Srinivas  
Providence RI 02906  
May 8, 2026

Dear Chair Gallo and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Chandana Srinivas, and I am a Community Member from Providence. I am writing to respectfully urge you to oppose Senate Bill 2787.

Though it has been framed as a temporary "moratorium," this bill would, in practice, shut the door on new charter public schools in Rhode Island — limiting the educational choices available to families across our state. Of particular concern is the bill's retroactive language, which would directly affect institutions already progressing through the approval process, such as De La Comunidad Bilingual School and the Greene School expansion.

Every family deserves the ability to choose a public school that fits their child's strengths, learning style, and future aspirations. For countless Rhode Island families, charter schools have been that answer — offering language immersion programs, career pathways, innovative instruction, and environments where children are seen and supported. Restricting these options does not strengthen public education; it diminishes it.

As a multilingual learner myself, having that access has helped me become a worldly learner and citizen. More than that, a wealth of research points to the high cognitive benefits that multilingual education provides students. And the value goes even deeper than cognition — every student has a right to their linguistic heritage, and it is the duty of public education to make that access available to all.

I also hold that decisions shaping the future of public education must be made through transparency, collaboration, and thoughtful long-term planning — not through broad restrictions that foreclose opportunities before communities even have a chance to benefit from them. Rhode Island can and should hold all public schools accountable while simultaneously creating space for innovation, growth, and expanded access.

I urge you to oppose Senate Bill 2787. Our students, families, and communities deserve a public education system that opens doors — not one that closes them.

With respect and appreciation for your service,

Chandana Srinivas  
Providence, RI