

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

TO: SLegislation@rilegislature.gov

Clarissa Hernandez  
Providence, RI  
May 13, 2026

Dear Chair Gallo and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

I am writing to urge you to vote against Senate Bill 2787.

Rhode Island families deserve a public education system that expands opportunity, not one that limits it. Senate Bill 2787 would prevent new charter public schools from opening in Rhode Island and would even reach backward to impact schools that have already spent years working through the state approval process, including De La Comunidad Bilingual School and the Greene School expansion.

For many students, access to different public school models can make a life-changing difference. Families are looking for schools that align with their children's needs, whether that means bilingual education, career-focused learning, arts integration, smaller environments, or innovative academic approaches. Public schools should reflect the diversity of students and communities they serve.

This legislation sends the wrong message to families who have invested time, energy, and hope into finding the right educational fit for their children. Rather than creating more opportunity, it would shut down pathways for students who are still waiting for a school where they can thrive.

Rhode Island should be focused on strengthening all public schools through accountability, innovation, and collaboration. We should not move backward by limiting opportunities for students and families seeking public school options.

I respectfully ask that you oppose Senate Bill 2787 and support a public education system that keeps doors open for Rhode Island children.

Sincerely,

Clarissa Hernandez

Providence, RI