

**Good afternoon, Senator Gallo and members of the Senate Education Committee,**

**My name is Daniel Wall and I am the President of the Cranston City Council. I m also a former chairman of the Cranston School committee and a teacher in Providence with more than 30 years of classroom experience. I tell you this not to impress the members of the committee, but to have you understand that my experiences have afforded me an in-depth understanding of education policy, practice and finances.**

**The charter school movement began as an idea, that proposed that these charter schools would be laboratory schools testing new and innovative methods and strategies. But, that is not what 15 years Charter school expansion has brought about. It has morphed into is a parallel school system that duplicates efforts and syphons off essential funding from our public schools. This syphoning of educational funding puts our staffing, our programing and even our buildings in jeopardy, as they fall into greater and greater disrepair. Now please understand my main focus today is not to debate charter school vs public schools, but to focus on the financial implications.**

**I asked our school department's director of financial to prepare an impact statement on funding as result of charter schools. Here are some of the figures that I believe are pertinent to this issue. Cranston sends 533 students to charter schools, they attend 15 different charter schools, for a total financial impact 9.5 million dollars for the current year. That is money that could be used for programs, staffing and maintenance and repair of our facilities. Just to put it perspective, such funding would be more than enough to offset the current deficit that Cranston is experiencing in both our school department budget and our city budget. Numerous municipalities around the state that are experiencing the same difficulties. That is why I ask you, members of education committee to support Senate bill 2787 for charter school moratorium. It may not solve all of the problems that I've outline, but it will, at the very least help to prevent them from getting worse.**

**Daniel Wall, Cranston City Council President**