

Dear Members of the Rhode Island Senate Education Committee,

As a teacher with 30 years of experience working with Multilingual Learner (MLL) students in Pawtucket public schools, I respectfully urge you to support Bill S2787 and any expansion of charter schools in our state. Over the decades, I have seen firsthand how charter school growth can negatively impact traditional public schools in several important ways. First, charter expansion diverts critical funding away from neighborhood public schools, leaving fewer resources for programs that support MLL students, special education services, counseling, and academic intervention. Second, many charter schools serve lower percentages of high-needs students, including MLLs and students with disabilities, which creates inequities and concentrates the most challenging educational needs within already underfunded public schools. Third, charter expansion can weaken community stability by drawing students away from local schools that serve as vital centers for families, cultural support, and long-term relationships with educators. Rhode Island's public schools should receive stronger investment and support rather than further fragmentation through charter expansion. I ask the committee to prioritize equitable funding, inclusive education, and resources that strengthen all public schools for every student in our state.

Respectfully, [Jeffrey Toth](#)

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