

**From:** [Kelly Ann Colson](#)  
**To:** [SLegislation](#)  
**Subject:** S2787  
**Date:** Monday, May 11, 2026 2:23:28 PM

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To the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Kelly Colson, and I am a Math Teacher for the Pawtucket School Department from Pawtucket.

I support S2787 because Rhode Island cannot continue expanding a fragmented parallel school system while neighborhood public schools face staffing shortages, rising student needs, and growing fiscal pressure.

Public schools serve every student who walks through the door, including students with the highest academic, behavioral, and special education needs. Continued charter expansion places disproportionate financial strain on urban districts already serving high-need student populations.

This legislation creates a responsible temporary pause that allows Rhode Island to evaluate long-term fiscal impacts, educational outcomes, and equity concerns before authorizing additional expansion.

The communities with the highest student needs, like Pawtucket, are bearing the greatest fiscal burden from charter expansion.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter that affects where I teach and where I live.  
Kelly Colson

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Kelly Colson  
Goff Middle School  
Math Teacher