

From: [Kyle Deschene](#)
To: [S2787 Legislation](#)
Subject: S2787 – Charter Moratorium & Cap Reduction
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To the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Kyle Deschene, and I am a 5th grade teacher 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. In the last couple years, I have had students leaving a charter school and enter my class mid year. I asked why they left and came to our school and they said, "They called my mom too much and said I couldn't stay" or "I got in trouble too much." I even had a parent tell me that because my child needed speech services they told me it would be easier for my child to be serviced at a public school. When they left, did the money that Pawtucket sent the charter school come with them? It did not.

Where is the data that shows that these schools are better than public schools? Many of these charter schools would have a 1 or 2 start rating using the current Rhode Island public school star scale. And these schools can pick and choose their students. Behavior problem? Special needs? High absenteeism? Sorry, you can't stay here. We'll keep your money but you need to go back to public school. Does this sound fair to you?

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.

Thank you for your consideration

Kyle Deschene