

From: [Lisa Narcisi Stewart](#)
To: [SLegislation](#); [Sen. Lauria, Pamela J.](#)
Subject: In support of Bill S2787
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To the Senate Education Committee and Senator Lauria,

I am writing this letter to support bill number S2787 - The Charter Cap/ Moratorium Bill. As a public school teacher and AFT member in West Warwick with two children in public schools in Barrington, RI, I am adamantly opposed to the expansion of charter schools that siphon public school funding to set up costly and unnecessary parallel systems without the same level of accountability as public schools.

The taxpayer dollars spent on charter schools should go toward ensuring that our public schools are properly funded. In West Warwick, we are lucky that we have been able to prevent charter schools from taking funds from our school district, but Woonsocket has not been so lucky. The difference in educational opportunities for students is striking. West Warwick has been growing our pathway programs, updating facilities, and working together to improve the school district for the town. In contrast, Woonsocket Public Schools have to send money to two charter schools, Beacon and RISE Prep Mayoral Academy, instead of creating new programs to benefit the children of Woonsocket within the school district itself. Because they are forced to fund three parallel school districts within the city of Woonsocket, the public schools are struggling significantly. No town needs 3 superintendents, Finance managers, and other managerial positions for their public and charter schools. It's incredibly wasteful, and students suffer as a result.

I know there are people in the state who are passionately dedicated to charter school expansion for many personal reasons, but if you look at our school districts holistically, it would be far more advantageous to the majority to care for our public schools. Create smaller programs within our school districts to help meet the needs of individual students. With more money, we could have smaller class sizes and better resources, so teachers wouldn't be decorating their classrooms and buying novels with their own money.

By increasing the number and size of pre-existing charter schools, you are directly harming our public schools. Those charter school advocates who claim that charter schools are public schools are being disingenuous. Charter schools may be stealing public education dollars, but they are not working to benefit the majority of RI students.

It's a terrible mistake to allow charter schools to grow parasitically without limits and without proper fiscal monitoring. Please pass S2787 to help ensure that common sense prevails in RI's public school systems.

Sincerely,
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