

Madalyn Ciampi
720 Nate Whipple Highway
Cumberland, RI 02864
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Dear Chair Gallo and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Madalyn Ciampi and I am a parent from Cumberland. I am writing to respectfully urge you to oppose Senate Bill 2787.

Rhode Island's students and families benefit from having access to diverse public school models, especially bilingual and dual-language learning environments that reflect the communities they serve. Senate Bill 2787 would effectively block the opening of new charter public schools in Rhode Island and, most concerningly, would retroactively impact schools already moving through the approval process, including De La Comunidad Bilingual School.

For many families, bilingual education is not simply a preference. It is an opportunity for students to strengthen academic achievement, maintain cultural and linguistic connections, and prepare for success in an increasingly multilingual world. Rhode Island has a growing multilingual population, yet families still have limited access to high-quality bilingual public school options.

De La Comunidad Bilingual School represents the kind of innovative public school model our state should be encouraging: one that seeks to expand opportunity, celebrate multilingualism, and create strong partnerships with families and communities. Blocking schools like this from opening sends the wrong message to families who have been advocating for more inclusive and culturally responsive educational opportunities.

Simply by living in the zipcode I do, my daughter has the privilege of attending high quality schools that fulfill her needs. Other families should not have to send their children to schools that will not serve them well because of where they live or because they cannot afford other options - this bill will take away high quality public school options primarily for underserved families.

I believe Rhode Island should continue investing in educational opportunity and innovation while maintaining strong accountability standards for all public schools. Families deserve access to learning environments that meet the needs of their children and communities.

Please oppose Senate Bill 2787 and support a public education system that values multilingual learners, educational opportunity, and family voice.

Sincerely,
Madalyn Ciampi
Cumberland