

From: love2teach2003@yahoo.com
To: [SLegislation](#)
Subject: S2787
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Good afternoon Senate Education Committee:

My name is Maryanna Lapati, and I am a special education middle school teacher in Providence, residing in Johnston.

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 who are English language learners, 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.

We all need to do what's best for ALL students, not just those who charter schools want to keep in their schools to make them look good. I have heard many emotional parents at school intake who state that the charter school that their child previously went to did absolutely nothing to help meet their child's needs. They did not follow the IEP, which as you know is a legal document, and also in one instance, had a child in a room by himself because he couldn't sit still and distracted others. This unacceptable treatment of students cannot be allowed in any type of school! Charter schools typically only like to keep students who do not have any academic or behavioral challenges. So, of course, their scores look great and they don't have many classroom disruptions. We need to put more funding into public schools so that the student population with the most needs have access to resources they deserve in order to be successful.

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

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Maryanna Lapati

DelSesto Middle School Special Educator

Providence, RI

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