

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Michael Shunney, a public school teacher and member of the West Warwick Teachers' Alliance. I am writing to express my strong support for **S2787 – Charter Moratorium & Cap Reduction**.

Rhode Island's public schools are currently navigating a perfect storm of staffing shortages, rising student needs, and financial instability. Despite these pressures, we continue to fund a parallel charter system that drains vital resources from our neighborhood schools. While charters benefit some, their expansion creates a "funding gap" for traditional districts, which must remain equipped to serve every student—including those with the most complex academic and special education requirements.

Beyond the budget, we are losing the "social capital" of engaged families who help anchor our school communities. This loss fragments our districts and disproportionately affects urban areas. S2787 is not an attack on charters; it is a **necessary pause**. It allows the state to evaluate the long-term impact of expansion on equity and fiscal stability. We must prioritize a stable, unified public education system that serves all children equally.

Thank you for your consideration.

Michael Shunney

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East Greenwich, RI