

**From:** [Michelle Luoma](#)  
**To:** [S Legislation](#)  
**Subject:** Vote YES on Charter Moratorium S2787  
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To the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Michelle Luoma and I am a teacher from North Providence.

I currently teach for PPSD and am a former Achievement First teacher and parent. Those experiences have demonstrated to me that, while public schools need both support and improvement, charter schools are not the solution to public systems' woes. They have inadequate oversight and rely on inexperienced staff, which is NOT in the best interests of our kids. They look better on paper because they are self-selecting: parents who apply to charter schools necessarily care about the education of their children and have the social capital and resources to know about them and apply for their lotteries. This weeds out students from chaotic homes, as well as new ESL students in their first year. Charter schools also frequently have grotesquely extended school days, which are developmentally inappropriate and (from my experience teaching them) are an exercise in diminishing returns. The additional hours are not spent on enrichment activities. Instead, charter schools are forcing children to complete hour upon hour of grueling work rather than being able to play outside, help around the house, pursue avocations such as sports and music, read for pleasure, and engage in other activities that are enriching and appropriate to their ages. Meanwhile, public schools serve EVERY child, including those who are new to the country or the state, those from unstable homes, and those who do not yet speak English.

Furthermore, charter schools disproportionately impact urban districts, reducing the quality of education available to public school students, and ultimately undermining the state's commitment to provide high quality education to ALL the children of Rhode Island.

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.

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 consideration.

Thank you in advance for your continued advocacy on behalf of our students and families.

Sincerely,

Michelle Luoma

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