

**From:** [Pasha DeFreitas](#)  
**To:** [SLegislation](#)  
**Subject:** Senate Bill S2787  
**Date:** Monday, May 11, 2026 7:56:29 PM

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Dear Senate Education Committee,

My name is Pasha DeFreitas, and I am a Grade 1 Elementary Teacher from Providence.

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 and thank you for your continued advocacy on behalf of our students and families.

In solidarity,  
Pasha DeFreitas