

From: [Patrick Shelton](#)
To: [S Legislation](#)
Subject: In support of S2787
Date: Monday, May 11, 2026 10:54:06 AM

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To the Senate Education Committee,

I am a Rhode Island constituent and a Providence Public School teacher, and I urge you to support S2787, legislation to establish a charter school moratorium and reduce the charter cap.

Public schools are the foundation of our communities and serve every student who walks through the door, including those with the highest needs. In contrast, testimony before the General Assembly has raised serious concerns about charter schools excluding high-need special education students or pushing students out of their programs, leaving district schools to absorb the responsibility without the necessary resources.

At the same time, Rhode Island cannot afford to maintain parallel school systems. We now have 64 local education agencies, each with administrative overhead and duplicative services that drive up costs without improving student outcomes. Continued charter expansion only deepens this inefficiency and strains already limited education funding.

Taxpayers have made a billion-dollar investment in new and renovated public school facilities across the state. Allowing unchecked charter growth undermines that investment by accelerating enrollment declines in district schools and shifting students—and funding—out of the very schools our communities have invested in.

Meanwhile, billionaire-backed interests are paying for more than a dozen lobbyists at the State House to push for continued charter expansion. In contrast, municipal leaders—including mayors, city councilors, and school committee members—have testified in support of a moratorium and cap reduction because they see the real fiscal and educational impact on their communities.

This legislation is about protecting students, preserving public investment, and ensuring a sustainable and equitable education system for Rhode Island.

I urge you to stand with Rhode Island communities and support S2787.

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