

Subject: Oppose Senate Bill 2787 – Protect Educational Opportunity for Rhode Island Families

Rebecca Ipina
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05/08/2026

Dear Chair Gallo and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Rebecca Ipina, and I am a Parent/Community Member from Providence. I am writing to respectfully urge you to oppose Senate Bill 2787.

While this bill has been described as a temporary “moratorium,” it would effectively block the creation of new charter public schools in Rhode Island and limit future educational opportunities for families across our state. Most concerning, the legislation is written retroactively, impacting schools already moving through the approval process, including De La Comunidad Bilingual School and the Greene School expansion.

Families deserve access to high-quality public school options that meet the diverse needs of students. Rhode Island’s public education system should be focused on expanding opportunity, not restricting it. For many families, charter public schools provide specialized programs, innovative models, language immersion opportunities, career and technical pathways, and learning environments where their children can thrive.

Having school choice has made a huge difference for both of my children. My daughter started in a Montessori program and was doing amazing academically and emotionally. Once she transitioned into public school, she began to decline. She has learning challenges, and although she had a 504 plan, it simply was not enough support for her needs. Moving her to a charter school became the best option for our family, and once she was there, she began to excel again. Because I had the choice to find a learning environment that truly supported her, she was able to grow, succeed, and exceed expectations.

My son’s experience showed me this even more. He has autism and ADHD and attended Children’s Friend, but when it came time for public school, we were told he did not need the services and supports he clearly needed. Because I had the option to choose a charter school, I enrolled him at Achievement First, where he finally received an IEP and the proper resources to help him succeed. School choice matters because every child learns differently, and families deserve access to schools that meet their children’s individual needs.

I also believe decisions about the future of public education should be informed by collaboration, transparency, and long-term planning, not broad restrictions that close doors for students and communities. Rhode Island should continue strengthening accountability for all public schools while preserving opportunities for innovation and growth.

Please oppose Senate Bill 2787 and support a public education system that values opportunity, access, and family voice.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Ipina
Owner of Rebecca's World Of Skills, Providence, RI