

**From:** [Tracey Kareemo](#)  
**To:** [SLegislation](#)  
**Subject:** support of S2787  
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To the Members of the Senate Education Committee,

I am writing in support of S2787, which establishes a temporary charter school moratorium and reduces the statewide charter cap from 35 to 25.

As an educator and district leader working directly in Rhode Island public schools, I have personally witnessed the impact of charter expansion on staffing, sustainability, and the overall health of our traditional public school systems.

Over the past two years alone, I have recruited multiple teachers away from charter schools into our district schools. The stories I consistently hear are deeply concerning and remarkably similar: low pay, extremely high stress, overwhelming pressure, lack of support, insufficient planning time, limited supplies, and burnout-level expectations.

These educators did not leave because they do not care about students. They left because the working conditions were unsustainable.

Many of the teachers who came to our district report finally feeling professionally supported for the first time. They speak about having access to instructional materials, mentorship, professional development, collaboration with colleagues, student support systems, and administrators who invest in their growth. They often express relief at being able to focus on teaching instead of simply surviving.

This raises an important question for our state: if charter expansion is truly strengthening public education, why are so many educators leaving those systems searching for stability and support in traditional public schools?

At the same time, our urban districts continue to face the greatest challenges — increasing student needs, staffing shortages, transportation costs, special education responsibilities, multilingual learner services, and growing budget pressures — while funding is diverted into an expanding parallel system.

Rhode Island is already facing declining enrollment and major investments in rebuilding and modernizing public school facilities. Continuing to expand separate systems during this time is fiscally irresponsible and weakens long-term planning for communities already under strain.

I want to be clear: this bill does not eliminate charter schools. It simply asks Rhode Island to pause, evaluate, and honestly examine whether continued expansion is sustainable, equitable, and truly benefiting all students.

As someone working directly with educators across Rhode Island, I strongly support S2787 and urge the Senate Education Committee to pass this legislation.

Respectfully,

Tracey Kareemo  
Pawtucket School Department

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