



WEST WARWICK TEACHERS' ALLIANCE

American Federation of Teachers, Local 1017

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The Honorable Members of the Senate Education Committee

Rhode Island State House

82 Smith Street

Providence, RI 02903

May 12, 2026

Re: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill No. 2787

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Education Committee,

In the United States we recognize the vital role that education plays in supporting our youth and preparing them to be functional members of society. We believe so much in the importance of education that we have legally mandated that all students have access to a "free and appropriate public education" (FAPE) and continue to work to create educational opportunities to support all learners. In that quest, however, we have begun to lose sight of the goal as it becomes more obscured by the options.

With limited admissions and the ability to tell students that they are not a 'good fit,' charter schools receive the same funding per pupil without the challenges that are faced by public schools. This creates additional budgetary issues for public schools, often while leaving the highest need students with less funding to support them.

In our state, charter schools have created duplicate districts. These parallel structures have taken us to something like sixty individual districts, all with their own administrations and priorities. When we are so divided, it is more difficult to come together for our students and offer them the best education possible.

It is important to note that the proposed cap for charter schools would not require any currently operating to close. Capping the number of charter schools in the state and placing a moratorium on new charters for the next three fiscal years, will give all schools - charter and public - the space and time to continue their work to support students in the most effective way. I urge you to show your support for our students by passing Senate Bill No. 2787.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Anne E. Godin

COPE Chair

West Warwick Teachers' Alliance, Local 1017

A Union of Professionals