

From: [April Vocke](#)
To: [SLegislation](#)
Subject: Bill S 2934
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 2:12:07 PM

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Dear Senators,

I am writing to *strongly* urge you to oppose Bill S2934, sponsored by Senator Samuel D. Zurier. As a Providence resident and a Providence Public Schools special education teacher, I am deeply concerned about the dangerous precedent this legislation sets for collective bargaining rights, labor protections, and the democratic process itself.

This bill specifically targets Providence Public School teachers and threatens to erode long-established collective bargaining rights that unions across Rhode Island have fought to secure. While the immediate focus may be on PPSD educators, the broader implications extend far beyond one district. Weakening the rights of one union opens the door to weakening the rights of all unions.

At a time when teachers are already being pushed to their limits, this legislation sends a devastating message. As a Providence resident and a special education teacher in PPSD, I am personally facing the loss of more than \$16,000 in income due to stipend cuts and reductions to ESY summer programming opportunities, all while the cost of housing, groceries, utilities, healthcare, gas, and everyday living expenses continue to rise dramatically.

At the same time, PPSD teachers continue to work under extremely difficult conditions. This current school year, I, along with three other staff members, have been teaching a classroom of full-grown adult students in a space originally designed to function as an office — approximately 16x20 feet total, including minimal furniture — rather than a classroom. These are the kinds of urgent and meaningful issues facing Providence Public Schools: overcrowding, inadequate learning spaces, staffing concerns, and support for students with significant needs. Yet instead of addressing those realities, this bill continues to attack teachers and weaken their rights.

Collective bargaining exists to ensure fairness, transparency, and a meaningful voice for workers in decisions that directly impact their jobs, working conditions, and the students and communities they serve. Undermining those protections is harmful not only to educators, but to public education as a whole.

Providence teachers work tirelessly every day to support students, families, and schools despite increasing demands and diminishing resources. *We deserve support and respect,* not legislation designed to strip away rights and weaken worker protections.

I respectfully ask that you stand with educators, workers, and unions across Rhode Island by voting NO on S2934.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
April Vocke

