



FROM: Andrew MacMannis, Collective Action for Education

Testimony in Support of SB2934

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TO: Senate Committee on Education: SLegislation@rilegislature.gov

My name is Andrew MacMannis, Chief of External Affairs for Collective Action for Education, and I am writing in support of Senate Bill 2934. This legislation creates a more modern and student-centered framework for the future of Providence schools, and as an organization that prioritizes ensuring that every Rhode Island child can go to a great public school, this idea of centering reform around the student resonates. Furthermore, this bill calls for innovation in teacher compensation and talent retention, and brings Rhode Island away from teacher-seniority models and closer to a model that serves to put new educators in front of our children— this means a rise in young teachers, in teachers-of-color, in dual language educators, all while supporting the veteran teachers who are having a strong impact. The proposal further creates a more timely and fair process for addressing persistent underperformance, while encouraging stronger collaboration between educators, school leadership, and district administration.

As Providence schools move toward a return to local control, proposals like this help move the district forward and break cycles that have contributed to chronic underperformance for far too long. With the right changes in place, we can ensure the Johns Hopkins report becomes the *final* national exposé on what is broken in Providence schools, and that the next national report focuses on how Providence improved student outcomes, strengthened public education, and created better experiences for children and families.

Andrew MacMannis

Chief of External Affairs, Collective Action for Education

Collective Action for Education - 235 Georgia Ave - Providence, Rhode Island, 02905

collectiveactionri.org