

From: [Upton, Julia](#)
To: [SLegislation](#)
Subject: Senate Bill S2934
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 6:15:03 PM

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Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Julia Upton, and I am a Pre-Kindergarten Integrated Special Education teacher in Providence. I am writing to strongly oppose Senate Bill S2934, sponsored by Senator Samuel Zurier.

This bill singles out Providence Public School District teachers and weakens protections that educators across Rhode Island rely on. The proposed changes to minimum salary schedules and dismissal/demotion procedures undermine teacher job security and create instability in a district that already faces major staffing and retention challenges.

At a time when schools are struggling with teacher shortages, this bill sends the wrong message to current and prospective educators. Removing protections and creating different standards for PPSD teachers will make it even harder to attract and retain qualified professionals in Providence classrooms. Students benefit from experienced, stable teachers, and policies that weaken morale and increase uncertainty ultimately hurt students as well.

PPSD educators already work under extremely challenging conditions and should be supported, not subjected to reduced protections compared to teachers in other districts. This legislation risks increasing turnover, lowering morale, and discouraging talented educators from working in Providence.

I respectfully urge you to oppose S2934 and support policies that strengthen public education, protect teachers, and promote stability for students and families.

Thank you for your consideration

Julia Upton

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