

From: [Robyn Gormley-Jackson](#)
To: [SLegislation](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 2934
Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2026 12:02:26 PM

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Date: May 20, 2026

To: The Senate Committee on Education

From: Robyn Gormley-Jackson

Subject: Testimony in STRONGEST OPPOSITION to Senate Bill 2934

To the Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

I am writing today to voice my unequivocal opposition to Senate Bill 2934.

While proponents frame this legislation as a tool for reform, it is in reality a damaging experiment forced upon Rhode Island's most vulnerable student population. After years of state intervention defined by disruption, high turnover, and top-down mandates, S2934 chooses to punish educators rather than fix the systemic resource gaps that Providence schools face every single day.

We must look plainly at the mechanics of this bill and the dangerous precedent it sets:

- **Lowering the Baseline:** By creating a separate, alternative minimum salary structure specifically for Providence, this bill codifies the idea that Providence educators are worth less than their peers in wealthier zip codes.
- **Stripping Vital Due Process:** By weakening established protections against arbitrary dismissal and demotion, it creates an environment of professional instability.

We are currently facing a historic teacher shortage. Ask yourselves: *Why would a talented educator choose to work in Providence when the legislature is actively signaling that their job security and compensation will be uniquely compromised?* This bill will inevitably accelerate a mass exodus of talent to neighboring districts.

Providence schools are not struggling because teachers have "too many rights." They are struggling under the weight of concentrated poverty, underfunded infrastructure, student trauma, and a rotating door of leadership.

You cannot threaten a school district into excellence. You cannot stabilize a classroom by making the teacher's future volatile. You cannot recruit top-tier talent by offering bottom-tier protections.

The educators in Providence are the bedrock holding a fractured system together. They have stayed through impossible circumstances to serve our children. Carving them out as an exception to basic statewide fairness is not just bad policy—it is a betrayal of the dedication they have shown.

I urge the committee to stop treating Providence as a laboratory for punitive policies that would never be tolerated in wealthier communities. Our students deserve stable, well-supported schools, and our teachers deserve equity and respect.

I strongly urge you to vote **No** on Senate Bill 2934.

Respectfully,

Robyn Gormley-Jackson, MEd, NBCT

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