

**From:** [Russ Bond](#)  
**To:** [SLegislation](#)  
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To the Senate Committee on Education,

I am writing in strong opposition to Senate Bill 2934.

This bill is being presented as a solution for Providence schools, but in reality it represents another reckless experiment imposed upon one of Rhode Island's most vulnerable school communities.

After years of state control, instability, disruption, staff turnover, and public humiliation directed at Providence educators, this proposal doubles down on dismantling professional protections instead of addressing the actual conditions students and teachers face every day.

Let's be honest about what this bill does: It creates a separate minimum salary structure for Providence teachers and establishes a process for dismissal and demotion that weakens professional stability and due process. In other words, the message to educators is clear: Providence teachers deserve fewer protections, less security, and different treatment than educators elsewhere in Rhode Island.

Why would anyone choose to work in a district where the legislature openly signals that teachers are more disposable?

Providence does not suffer from "too many protections" for teachers. Providence suffers from concentrated poverty, underfunded systems, chronic turnover, enormous student needs, trauma, inconsistent leadership structures, and years of state intervention that promised transformation yet delivered chaos and instability instead.

The answer to struggling schools is not to make the profession less sustainable.

You do not attract strong educators by threatening them.

You do not improve student outcomes by destabilizing schools further.

You do not rebuild trust by carving Providence teachers out as exceptions to fairness.

Teachers in Providence are not the enemy. They are often the only stable adults holding fractured systems together. This bill proposes to strip protections from the very educators who stayed and continued serving children through IMPOSSIBLE circumstances.

Stop treating Providence as a testing ground for punitive policy ideas that would never be politically tolerated in wealthier districts.

Students in Providence deserve excellent schools.

Educators deserve dignity and respect.

This bill offers neither.

I urge the committee to reject Senate Bill 2934.

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