

May 18, 2026

Dear Chairwoman Gallo and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

I am writing to you as the Vice President of High Schools for the Providence Teachers Union, and a twelve year veteran of the Providence Public School Department regarding S 2934 and my obvious opposition to this discriminatory and dangerous bill.

This bill would allow a different minimum salary schedule for PPSD teachers, a different way to dismiss PPSD teachers, and a different way to demote PPSD teachers. It seems like a discriminatory bill in my opinion, especially seeing that when you start looking through the latest data from RIDE, Providence seems to have one of the highest amounts of educators of color in the district. In fact, it is something that PPSD has worked on under state control. Part of bringing world class talent has been to diversify our work force. The district has offered loan programs, has expanded outreach, and has found pathways for TAs to become teachers. This is something that I am sure you're all aware of as you sit on the Senate Committee on Education, but it does make me wonder why a bill would be written where this developing diversified workplace would be exempt from the same rules other districts abide by. If we all want Providence to succeed, why have a bill that will go after one of the tenets of the Turnaround Plan? In a time where districts have a teacher shortage, why are we making it more difficult to want teachers to stay in this profession?

Teachers deserve legal protection. We are living in a time where the Department of Education posts disparaging things about teachers, we are told our degrees are no longer considered professional, and with this bill, it will institutionalize second-tier status for PPSD teachers. Providence teachers do not deserve this, and Rhode Island should not be in the business of stripping public school teachers of their rights. In Rhode Island we have always been recognized as professionals entitled to collectively bargained protections and due process. This bill moves Providence in the opposite direction.

Rhode Island has historically recognized educators as professionals entitled to collectively bargained protections and due process. This bill moves Providence in the opposite direction.

I urge you to oppose this bill, and any bill that strips teachers of their collective bargaining rights.

Sincerely,

Shannon McLoud

Vice President of High Schools, Providence Teachers Union

