

From: susan_rohwer
To: [S Legislation](#)
Cc: [David Morales](#); [Sen Bell](#)
Subject: Testimony in Support of S-2934
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Dear Chairwoman Gallo and Members of the Committee,
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of S-2934.

I am a parent of a middle schooler in Providence Public Schools and an organizer with Parents Leading for Educational Equity (PLEE), a parent-led group working to ensure families, especially multilingual families, are meaningfully involved in decisions impacting their children's education. PLEE members bring both lived experience and policy engagement focused on teacher quality, shared accountability, and school-level flexibility in Providence.

I support S-2934 because it takes important steps to strengthen policies for teachers in Providence schools: it allows more flexible, innovative salary structures for educators (including differentiated pay for educators who take on extra responsibilities or serve in high-need schools); it clarifies due process and creates an expedited arbitration path focused on educational quality; and it updates layoff decisions to include performance, experience, and student need rather than relying solely on seniority. Those changes, along with protections for high-performing and multilingual educators, are critical in a district where more than 80% of students are students of color and many are multilingual learners.

These reforms promote a professional culture of growth, responsibility, and collaboration while protecting students and educators. They can help address educator shortages, improve recruitment and retention of multilingual teachers, and make schools more responsive and inclusive for families.

That said, PLEE remains firm that Providence should not be returned to local control without a comprehensive, realistic transition plan. Based on our direct participation in current working groups, there is no evidence that the necessary groundwork can be completed in the short timeframe suggested. Ending state intervention too soon would risk students and destabilize schools.

A responsible transition plan must include:

- Cross-agency coordination
- Clear legal and governance design
- Budget modeling and fiscal alignment
- Labor and operational planning
- Sustained community engagement with feedback loops
- Phased implementation with oversight

I support S-2934's reforms because they honor and strengthen educators who go above and beyond, but I oppose a premature return to local control without the safeguards and multi-year planning listed above.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
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