

From: [Earle, Erin](#)
To: [SLegislation](#)
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Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 3010.

My name is Erin West Earle, and I serve as Chair of the North Kingstown School Committee. In that role, I have seen firsthand the importance of policies that prioritize student safety. Last year, our committee unanimously approved a resolution supporting this legislation when it was first introduced, recognizing that it addresses a significant gap in current law.

In 2022, Rhode Island took an important step by amending R.I. Gen. Laws §16-13 to require the Department of Education to maintain a confidential list of certified teachers who have been terminated for good and just cause. This list, accessible only to school hiring authorities, helps ensure that individuals who have been deemed unfit to work with students are not unknowingly rehired elsewhere.

However, this safeguard applies only to credentialed educators.

School districts employ many individuals who do not hold certification but who interact with students regularly, including paraprofessionals, support staff, and other personnel. Under current law, if one of these employees is terminated for inappropriate conduct that does not rise to the level of a criminal offense, there is no formal mechanism to share that information with other districts. As a result, another school system may unknowingly hire someone who has previously been found unfit to work with students.

If a district has determined that an individual should not be around its students, that concern should not stop at district lines. At a minimum, hiring authorities should have access to relevant information so they can make informed decisions.

Senate Bill 3010 builds on existing law by extending a proven safeguard to all school employees, regardless of credential status. It is a reasonable and necessary step to better protect students across Rhode Island.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support Senate Bill 3010.

Thank you for your consideration.

Erin West Earle