



June 4, 2026

Dear Chair Gallo and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Alliance of YMCAs, I write to express concern regarding S.3289.

We support the goal of helping students and families learn about youth development opportunities. However, as drafted, S.3289 creates a statutory right of access to public schools for congressionally chartered youth organizations only. That narrow framework would exclude many qualified community-based organizations that provide afterschool, summer, and youth development programming across Rhode Island.

The YMCA is not a congressionally chartered organization, but we are one of many trusted youth-serving providers that could be disadvantaged by this bill. Across the state, afterschool providers, childcare organizations, recreation programs, mentoring programs, and other nonprofit partners work closely with schools and families to support student well-being, working parents, and out-of-school-time learning.

As drafted, S.3289 would allow one category of organizations to receive guaranteed recruitment access, classroom presentation time, and use of school communication channels, while similarly situated youth-serving organizations would remain subject to inconsistent local discretion. That creates an uneven playing field that is not based on program quality, safety, student need, family demand, or community impact.

If the state is going to create a formal school-access framework for youth development organizations, that framework should be fair, inclusive, and based on clear standards — not federal charter status.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that S.3289 be amended to include qualified nonprofit youth development organizations that meet appropriate standards related to youth service, safety, background checks, nonprofit status, and educational or developmental mission.

The Rhode Island Alliance of YMCAs would welcome the opportunity to work with the sponsors, the Committee, and other youth-serving partners on language that expands student access without unintentionally disadvantaging trusted community-based providers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Erlin R. Rogel, J.D.

On behalf of the Rhode Island Alliance of YMCAs