



~~William F. Klements~~
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Superintendent of Catholic Schools

The Honorable Louis DiPalma
Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: OPPOSITION to 2026 S2139, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION FOUNDATION
LEVEL SCHOOL SUPPORT

Dear Chairman DiPalma and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

I am writing on behalf of F.A.C.E. of Rhode Island to respectfully opposes S2139.

We serve students across Rhode Island, and we see the demand for educational support in every community—urban, suburban, and rural.

This is not a niche issue. It is a statewide reality.

S2139 introduces a structural risk that Rhode Island will not move quickly enough to participate in the federal SGO program.

If that happens, the impact will be felt broadly:

- Donations originating in Rhode Island will be directed to other states
- Rhode Island students—across communities—will miss out
- Organizations prepared to serve those students will be sidelined

Story: Across the thousands of families we work with, one pattern is clear: when support is available, students benefit.

When it is not, the gap widens.

FACE serves students attending: 35 Catholic Schools across Rhode Island

Since it's inception in 2006, F.A.C.E of Rhode Island has benefitted more than six thousand students in our great state.

The question before us is not whether this program will exist—it will.

The question is whether Rhode Island students will benefit from it.

We respectfully urge you to oppose S2139.

Sincerely,

William F. Klements

Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of Providence

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