

Jamie Plume

From: Christen Davenport <christen351@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2026 2:32 PM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: Approve Rebuild S2679 Slater Middle School

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Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to respectfully urge your support for Bill 2679, which would provide the critical funding needed to rebuild Samuel Slater Middle School in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

I have been a teacher in this building for the past 15 years, and during that time, I have watched the condition of the school steadily deteriorate. While there have been attempts to make upgrades and repairs over the years, these improvements have only provided temporary solutions to much larger structural and infrastructure problems. The reality is that the building is now over 100 years old and can no longer adequately meet the needs of today's students and staff.

Every day, students and teachers work in conditions that no child or educator should have to endure. The girls' locker room regularly leaks dirty water onto the floor from pipes connected to other floors and bathrooms. The Performing Arts Center — once an important space for students — has been taped off and is unusable because the walls are crumbling, mold is growing, and pipes have burst inside the walls. The area is now boarded up.

For years, pipes in the gym leaked sewage. One attempted repair involved simply covering the area with plaster rather than addressing the underlying problem. On windy days, the gym smells strongly of gas and sewage fumes.

When it rains, the roof leaks down walls and into stairwells throughout the building. I regularly arrive at work and place trash cans in the third-floor hallways to catch leaking water. The ceiling in our copy room collapsed because of ongoing water damage. While the area was patched to stop debris from falling, the leaking pipe itself was never repaired, and now the patch is leaking as well.

A few years ago, a ceiling in a storage closet adjacent to my classroom caved in due to water damage. Water continues to leak into the walls, and during rainy periods, the smell of mold becomes overwhelming. At one point, conditions became so severe that I had to temporarily relocate my classroom while the area dried out.

In some classrooms on one side of the building, teachers and students cannot even use the handwashing sinks because the pipes improperly drain into the kitchen area. These are not isolated incidents. They are ongoing problems that staff and students face every single day.

The conditions in the building are also affecting the health of the people who work there. Multiple teachers suffer from recurring sinus infections, respiratory illnesses, and other health issues each year

that are likely connected to the mold, water damage, sewage leaks, and poor air quality within the building. Staff members should not have to worry about whether their workplace is harming their health.

Despite the dedication of our teachers, staff, and administrators, repairs are no longer enough. We are trying to educate children in a building that is failing around them. Our students deserve a safe, healthy, and modern learning environment that supports their education instead of creating additional obstacles.

A rebuilt Samuel Slater Middle School would provide safe, updated classrooms and facilities designed to support student achievement, educational equity, and teacher effectiveness. Modern infrastructure, secure facilities, functioning ventilation and plumbing systems, and safe learning spaces would make a tremendous difference for both students and staff.

This project is also an investment in the entire Pawtucket community. A new school would strengthen neighborhood pride, support local growth, and demonstrate that Rhode Island values the education and well-being of its children.

After 15 years of teaching in this building, I can confidently say that temporary repairs are no longer sufficient. Samuel Slater Middle School needs to be rebuilt.

I respectfully ask the Senate Finance Committee to support and pass Bill 2679. Your decision would represent an investment in the students, families, educators, and future of Pawtucket.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Christen Davenport

Slater Middle School Teacher

Jamie Plume

From: Stacey Sabourin <slsabourin72@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2026 2:32 PM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: Approve S2679 - Slater Middle School Rebuild

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of the teachers, staff and students at Slater Middle School in Pawtucket. My name is Stacey Sabourin (3 Hayfield Lane Cumberland, RI 02864) and I am a teacher at Slater Middle School.

This school is over 100 years old and has had nothing more than band-aid repairs. We consistently have issues with adequate heating in the winter. We aren't allowed to use space heaters because the electrical system cannot support the overload. We have no cooling system. Pieces of ceiling material fall regularly and pipes leak or burst causing significant damage. The acoustics in the gymnasium are deafening. We can't have spectators because there is insufficient seating.

To say this building is merely old is a vast understatement. By no means does it even come close to being able to meet 21st-century teaching and learning.

Please approve the motion to fund the Slater rebuild.

Thank you,
Stacey Sabourin

Sent from my iPhone

Jamie Plume

From: Rosangel Paulino De Suarez <paulinor@psdri.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2026 2:37 PM
To: Senate Finance
Cc: Rossy Paulino
Subject: S2679 Slater Rebuild-Urgent

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May 28, 2026

Honorable Members of the Rhode Island Senate and Finance Committee:

My name is Rosangel Paulino, and I am writing to you as a teacher at Samuel Slater Middle School and resident of the State of Rhode Island to express my strong support for Bill S2679, which would provide for the reconstruction of Samuel Slater Middle School in the city of Pawtucket.

The reconstruction of this school is urgent and necessary to ensure the safety, well-being, and academic success of our students. The current condition of the building directly affects the learning environment and the development of the young people who attend this institution every day. Our students deserve a safe, modern, and appropriate space where they can learn, grow, and feel valued.

As an educator, I witness firsthand the impact that school infrastructure has on student motivation, emotional well-being, and academic performance. A deteriorating school building not only presents physical safety concerns, but also limits our ability to provide a high-quality education. Rebuilding Samuel Slater Middle School will benefit not only the students and school staff, but also the entire Pawtucket community.

Investing in our schools is an investment in the future of our state. This reconstruction project will have a lasting positive impact on generations of students and will strengthen the community by providing a dignified and secure educational environment.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to approve Bill S2679 and support this important initiative for our city and our students.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to public education.

Sincerely,

Rosangel Paulino
Spanish Teacher and Rhode Island Resident

Jamie Plume

From: Donna <dpentaleri@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2026 2:40 PM
To: Senate Finance
Subject: Approve S2679 - Slater Middle School Rebuild

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Honorable Senators

I am writing in support of S2679

I am currently employed as the instructional coach and literacy interventionist at Slater Middle School. It is my second year on staff here at Slater. The need for a complete rebuild of this school is of the utmost urgency. The environment toxicity in this building is endemic and chronic among teachers, staff and students.

Removing carpeting and patching mold ridden wood and ceiling tile is tantamount to a cover-up and puts all of us at risk

I believe if adequate environmental surface and air testing were done this building would not be able to remain open. It would be condemned by any minimum health and safety guidelines. There is human waste bacteria in the walls of the basement and pervasive mold throughout the building, the carpeted areas are laden with bacteria and mold

These toxins cannot be topically treated. They require complex structural abatement.

Adults and students suffer brain fog, respiratory illness and skin rashes. There are more serious long term effects of constant chronic exposure to mold and micro toxins

I myself have had rashes and constant respiratory problems this year more than last. I have doctors notes documenting my problems and through my Drs guidance efforts to mitigate the exposure.

While at work I avoid carpeted rooms and flush my sinuses with sterile saline followed by Flonase multiple times a day. Last week a most serious situation occurred when I was hospitalized with sudden onset AFIB in my sleep. Diagnostics indicate that I have ZERO heart problems. To say I was frightened is an understatement.

There is a body of research correlating inflammation from mold exposure and sudden onset AFIB

My health and my life I feel are in jeopardy here. I am healthy, strong, calm and have no health issues except those caused by the toxicity in this building.

I feared for my life last week. I'm under medical care now of the highest order

Take this as a clarion call to action.

The students teachers and staff at Slater deserve nothing less

Sincerely,

Donna Pentaleri

Sent from my iPhone