



Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 3015 – The Rhode Island Education Funding and Accountability Act

May 21, 2026

To: Senate Finance Committee

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Charter Public Schools, I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 3015, the Rhode Island Education Funding and Accountability Act. This legislation represents a long-overdue evolution of our funding formula, moving toward a system that more accurately reflects the full costs of modern education while ensuring a more equitable distribution of responsibility across the state.

Central to our support is the fact that this bill shifts the fiscal burden of public education more equitably across the state and its various districts. By centralizing unpredictable, high-cost expenses—such as high-cost special education—at the state level, we move away from a fragmented system and toward a collective investment. We believe this shift will significantly alleviate the tension between different public school models, allowing all of us to focus on our shared mission rather than competing for limited local resources.

We appreciate that Senate Bill 3015 was designed with a "student-first" philosophy that accounts for the full cost of education and tailors instructional costs to student needs more directly while ensuring that every education dollar is spent transparently and accountably.

This legislation is the result of a rigorous, year-long consensus-building process. It creates the predictable and transparent environment that all Rhode Island public schools need to thrive. **We urge the Committee to pass Senate Bill 3015 and provide our schools with the framework necessary to deliver high-quality education to every child in our state. Our students and our communities cannot wait.**

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued service to the students of Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lauren K. B. Matlach".

Lauren K. B. Matlach
Deputy Director, Rhode Island League of Charter Public Schools