



WEST WARWICK TEACHERS' ALLIANCE

American Federation of Teachers, Local 1017

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To: Senate Finance Committee

From: Paul Bovenzi, President, West Warwick Teachers' Alliance (WWTA)

Date: May 14, 2026

Re: Support for RI S 3251 – The "Rule of 90"

On behalf of the West Warwick Teachers' Alliance, I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 3251, commonly known as the "Rule of 90". This legislation represents a critical step in addressing long-standing issues within our state's pension system and honoring the commitments made to the dedicated public servants who educate our children.

Many of our members entered the teaching profession with a clear understanding and a promise of what their retirement would look like. Unfortunately, those promises were significantly altered, creating a sense of betrayal and profound concern for their financial futures. The "Rule of 90" is not merely a policy adjustment; it is an essential effort to start repairing the damage caused when those initial retirement promises were revoked.

For the educators of West Warwick and throughout Rhode Island, this bill marks a new start to build back trust. It recognizes the immense value of experienced educators and seeks to restore a measure of the security they were guaranteed at the start of their careers. Passing this bill is a vital move toward stabilizing our workforce and ensuring that teaching remains a viable and respected career path in Rhode Island.

As President of the WWTA, I respectfully urge this committee to support and advance S 3251. Thank you for your time and for your continued advocacy for Rhode Island educators.

Respectfully submitted,

President, West Warwick Teachers' Alliance

A Union of Professionals

Affiliations: American Federation of Teachers • American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations
Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals • Rhode Island AFL – CIO • Providence Central Federated Council