

**From:** [jrstead2@verizon.net](mailto:jrstead2@verizon.net)  
**To:** [Sen. Acosta, Jonathon](#); [Sen. Bell, Samuel W.](#); [Sen. Bissailon, Jacob E.](#); [Sen. Britto, Robert](#); [Sen. Burke, John P.](#); [Sen. Ciccone III, Frank A.](#); [Sen. de la Cruz, Jessica](#); [Sen. DiMario, Alana](#); [Sen. DiPalma, Louis P.](#); [Sen. Euer, Dawn](#); [Sen. Felag, Jr., Walter S.](#); [Sen. Gallo, Hanna M.](#); [Sen. Gu, Victoria](#); [Sen. Kallman, Meghan E.](#); [Sen. LaMountain, Matthew L.](#); [Sen. Lauria, Pamela J.](#); [Sen. Lawson, Valarie J.](#); [Sen. Mack, Tiara T.](#); [Sen. McKenney, Mark P.](#); [Sen. Morgan, Elaine J.](#); [Sen. Murray, Melissa A.](#); [Sen. Paolino, Thomas J.](#); [Sen. Pearson, Ryan W.](#); [Sen. Quezada, Ana B.](#); [Sen. Raptakis, Leonidas P.](#); [Sen. Rogers, Gordon E.](#); [Sen. Sosnowski, V. Susan](#); [Sen. Tikoian, David P.](#); [Sen. Ujifusa, Linda L.](#); [Sen. Valverde, Bridget G.](#); [Sen. Zurier, Samuel](#); [Sen. Appollonio, Peter A. Jr.](#); [Sen. Dimitri, Andrew R.](#); [Sen. Patalano, Todd M.](#); [Sen. Thompson, Brian J.](#); [Sen. Urso, Lori](#); [Sen. Vargas, Lammis J.](#); [Senate Judiciary Committee](#); [S Legislation](#); [Senate Finance](#); [gentreasurer@treasury.ri.gov](mailto:gentreasurer@treasury.ri.gov); [lbyrne@sos.ri.gov](mailto:lbyrne@sos.ri.gov); [ltgov@ltgov.ri.gov](mailto:ltgov@ltgov.ri.gov); [ag@riag.ri.gov](mailto:ag@riag.ri.gov); [smaldonado@sos.ri.gov](mailto:smaldonado@sos.ri.gov); [rock@sos.ri.gov](mailto:rock@sos.ri.gov); [fchybowski@sos.ri.gov](mailto:fchybowski@sos.ri.gov); [marias@sos.ri.gov](mailto:marias@sos.ri.gov); [secretaryamore@sos.ri.gov](mailto:secretaryamore@sos.ri.gov); [AmoOffice@mail.house.gov](mailto:AmoOffice@mail.house.gov); [mayor@providenceri.gov](mailto:mayor@providenceri.gov); [governor@governor.ri.gov](mailto:governor@governor.ri.gov); [desk@wpri.com](mailto:desk@wpri.com); [news@wjar.com](http://news@wjar.com)  
**Subject:** Support for S2216 — Strengthening School Hiring Transparency to Protect Rhode Island Students  
**Date:** Friday, March 27, 2026 4:17:22 PM

---

## To the Honorable Members of the Rhode Island Senate,

My name is **James Stead**, and I express my strong support for **S2216**, legislation that strengthens school hiring transparency and enhances student safety across Rhode Island.

For clarity, **S2216 is sponsored by:**

**Senators Jessica de la Cruz, Gordon Rogers, Andrew Dimitri, Todd Patalano, Leonidas Raptakis, and Peter Appollonio.**

S2216 addresses a critical gap in school hiring practices by requiring a thorough, 20-year employment history review and mandating that prior employers disclose any investigations involving sexual misconduct or abuse. These reforms directly confront the long-standing problem of “passing the trash,” where individuals with concerning histories move between districts without proper scrutiny.

### Why S2216 is essential for student protection

#### 1. Comprehensive employment-history verification

Requiring schools to review two decades of employment ensures that patterns of misconduct or red flags cannot be concealed through job changes or incomplete records.

#### 2. Mandatory disclosure of past investigations

S2216 prevents situations where prior employers withhold critical information. This transparency is vital for safeguarding students and ensuring that hiring decisions are fully informed.

#### 3. Consistent statewide standards

The bill establishes uniform expectations for all Rhode Island schools, closing loopholes and ensuring that every district follows the same protective procedures.

#### 4. A proactive, student-centered approach

This legislation prioritizes the safety and well-being of students by ensuring that only individuals with clean, verifiable histories are entrusted with positions in our schools.

S2216 is a responsible, necessary measure that strengthens hiring integrity, protects students, and ensures that Rhode Island schools maintain the highest standards of safety and accountability.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
James Stead  
Burrillville, Rhode Island