



ST. MARY ACADEMY | Bay View

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill No. 2529

Senate Education Committee

Submitted by Marcela Rossi, Ph.D., Principal, St. Mary Academy – Bay View

March 18, 2024

St. Mary Academy — Bay View is an all girls PK through grade 12 institution celebrating its 150 years of providing high quality education. Our founders, the Sisters of Mercy, equipped us with a mission to serve young women and instill in them a commitment to social justice and a belief that they are able to make a difference in the world. We are proud of our traditions and the quality of our educational programs. This work begins with our youngest learners in our PK classroom.

Senate Bill No. 2529 allows us to continue shaping our early childhood programs in alignment with the standards found in the Bright Stars Rating System with the flexibility to adapt them to the particular program and structure of Bay View. Further, it eliminates the financial impact that we would have to bear to participate in the Bright Stars assessment that would jeopardize the viability of a program of our size.

We deeply appreciate that Senate Bill No.2529 maintains the optional nature of the Bright Stars Rating system for private schools while maintaining everyone's access to the resources and standards as needed. We believe this strikes the balance needed for small private programs.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marcela C. Rossi". Below the signature is a horizontal line with a small flourish underneath it.

Marcela C. Rossi, Ph.D.
Principal
St Mary Academy - Bay View
Riverside, Rhode Island