

Lisa Cataldi

From: Rebecca Weinberg Jones <rkweinberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 9, 2025 2:44 PM
To: House Education Committee
Subject: Please Oppose House Bill 6034

Dear Chairperson McNamara and Members of the House Education Committee,
My name is Rebecca Weinberg Jones and I am a resident of the east side of Providence, RI. As a future parent and current taxpayer, I write to express my **strong opposition to House Bill 6034**, which would limit the future of network charter schools in Rhode Island by **banning the approval of new network charter schools and blocking the expansion of existing ones**. If this bill passes I am worried I will have to leave Providence in search of better schools.

Charter public schools—especially network schools—have played a critical role in providing high-quality educational opportunities to students across our state, particularly those who are traditionally underserved or face systemic barriers. H 6034 would effectively **cap growth and innovation** in this sector, cutting off proven pathways for student success.

Rhode Island General Law defines network charter public schools as schools with an elementary AND a secondary school or multiple elementary/secondary schools. This bill would disproportionately and negatively impact the charter public schools in our state who serve the most at-risk and highest needs population of students (schools like Times2 STEM Academy, Paul Cuffee School, Highlander Charter School, to name a few). Network charter schools often provide operational support, data systems, professional development, and curriculum design that help ensure **consistent academic excellence** across campuses. These supports allow educators to focus more on teaching and learning while ensuring that every student, regardless of zip code, has access to a school that works.

This bill threatens to undo years of progress and disadvantage schools that are near and dear in our communities. The proposed cap also contradicts the original legislative intent of the charter school law, which called for schools to serve as “vanguards” and “laboratories” for educational innovation.

I respectfully ask you to oppose this bill and continue supporting schools that are delivering results and giving families real choices. Our kids—and our communities—deserve that.

Please stand with Rhode Island families and students who depend on strong public school options. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Weinberg Jones
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