



Spoken Testimony on House Bill 6058

Delivered by Amy Grzybowski

On Behalf of New England Institute of Technology

Chairman McNamara, members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Amy Grzybowski. I am the Vice President of Workforce Development and Community, and I am here representing New England Institute of Technology in opposition to House Bill 6058.

I want to start by saying this: while I appreciate the time you've given me today, my remarks are not the most important ones you'll hear. I've brought with me two students whose voices matter far more than mine. They're here to share how early college opportunities—made possible through dual and concurrent enrollment—have opened doors for them, shaped their future aspirations, and connected them to career pathways that were previously out of reach.

At New England Tech, we serve hundreds of high school students across Rhode Island through our Early College and CTE partnership programs. These students come from cities like Pawtucket, Providence, Central Falls, and Woonsocket—places where access to higher education and career-aligned opportunities can make a generational difference.

This bill, while well-intentioned in its language around student agency, effectively narrows the very opportunities it claims to expand. It removes access to private institutions like NEIT that are offering high-quality, accredited programs specifically aligned with Rhode Island's workforce needs. These programs often serve students who thrive in smaller classes, benefit from hands-on instruction, and are pursuing fields like IT, health sciences, or the skilled trades.

Furthermore, it moves us backward at a time when the Rhode Island Department of Education has been making significant progress—through the Advanced Course Network, CTE pathways, and other early college initiatives—to open doors and remove barriers for students.

We urge the committee to protect and strengthen—not limit—the dual enrollment ecosystem in our state. Let's continue to offer students real choices. Let's include all institutions that are qualified, accredited, and committed to their success.