



Rhode Island League of Charter Schools

4/23/2024

The Honorable Marvin Abney
House Finance committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02902

Honorable Marvin Abney and Representatives of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing respectfully to you on behalf of the Rhode Island League of Charter Schools, and its 20 member schools, in opposition to House Bill 7402, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION – STATE AID.

We are of the opinion that the passing of HB 7402 may have unfavorable effects on our schools' ability to receive timely and appropriate tuition from those districts which send their children to charter public schools. In turn, greater disparities in access to resources will be felt by students in charter public schools. The exclusion of penalties on districts under state intervention is especially problematic, as most charter public school students come from chronically underperforming districts, which are the same districts which are most likely to be subject to these provisions. The proposed amendment therefore threatens the ability of charter schools to provide services to those students who come from the categories of highest need.

We urge the House Finance Committee to uphold the existing version of 16-5-30, which appropriately addresses the issue of tuition non-payment, as it is currently stated.

Respectfully,

Chiara Deltito-Sharrott
Executive Director
Rhode Island League of Charter Schools