

April 2, 2025

Dear House Committee on Labor,

I have worked at RIDE for over ten years, after earning my Doctor of Education degree at Harvard University and consulting with RIDE to work with the federal Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) to develop a civil rights monitoring program for schools that offer career and technical education programs. The monitoring system has been implemented ever since, and OCR considers Rhode Island to be a national exemplar in this work.

I also co-manage RIDE's All Course Network which has provided K-12 students with the opportunity to take high quality courses at no cost for them or their families. Whether they enroll in dual enrollment, work-based learning, enrichment, world language, or career credential courses help students get a head start on postsecondary success, master the skills required of a lifelong learner, and prepare for jobs in sectors critical to Rhode Island's future prosperity. This summer, the ACN portfolio will prioritize courses that align with Governor McKee's Math Matters RI Campaign, with the goal of improving the math skills of RI students.

None of these accomplishments would be possible without the ongoing collaboration of my Local 2012 colleagues. Truly, I have never worked with a smarter, more talented, and knowledgeable group of colleagues who care deeply about the education of our state's students. Overall, 2012 has worked well with numerous leadership teams during my tenure at RIDE. Given this context and the talent and hard work of myself and my colleagues, I am no less than incredulous that the current administration is threatening the bargaining rights of 2012 members.

This letter is an appeal to support Local 2012's fundamental right to continue to survive as a bargaining unit, as it has for the past 50 years. The bill doesn't include any perks for Local 2012 but is necessary to secure our very existence and ensure the continuation of our rights today and moving forward.

With respect and appreciation,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. Matzko', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marilyn Matzko, Ed.D.