

## Steven Sepe

---

**From:** Kathy Crescenzo <kathy.crescenzo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 6, 2024 2:47 PM  
**To:** House State Government and Elections Committee  
**Subject:** Bill H7767

Distinguished members of the committee;

I am adamantly opposed to bill H7767.

I am a retired Rhode Island public high school classroom teacher, having taught for 38 years. I have also taught Driver Education for the State of RI for 30 years. All my professional experience is with students 15-18 years of age.

We have certainly learned from Covid online teaching that there were extensive losses in English and mathematics proficiency across the board. The best place to teach students has proved to be in the classroom.

Of course, during Covid it became necessary to teach Driver Education online. There was very little ability to connect with the students under these conditions. The issues working with students were extensive including, connectivity issues, students with different learning styles, comprehension issues, IEP's, 504's, ESL, and social and emotional issues just to name a few. To add to all this there were students babysitting small children, students with no private place to work having other family members in the same room, not to mention those with video games, tv, and phones to text and play with. Maintaining attention and concentration on the program was hampered by all these concerns.

We need to ask ourselves do we want the best possible outcome for 16-year-olds planning to drive 3000 pounds of steel and glass? Would you want the best for your family members, children and grandchildren? Driving on our streets today needs to be taken seriously. Students need to understand the life altering consequences of making poor decisions on the highway.

Driver Education is much more than teaching the rules of the road. Helping students understand risk, and the consequences of decisions made when there is no one to tell them what they should do is part and parcel of the program. Engaging students, providing interaction and discussion within the classroom setting ensures the messages are delivered directly without outside influences.

Providing an online canned video program for convenience does a disservice to our teenagers and to the entire population of RI. **I urge you to oppose H7767.**

Kathleen A Crescenzo, 11 Barnacle Drive West, South Kingstown

--  
Kathy Crescenzo  
[kathy.crescenzo@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.crescenzo@gmail.com)