
From: Ed Bastia <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2024 6:53 AM
To: Constitutional Convention Commission
Subject: Consideration for the Convention Commission

Dear members of the planning committee and preparatory commission,

My suggestion for the upcoming constitutional convention is to include the topic of expanding educational access for every student in Rhode Island, regardless of family income or personal demographics. School choice is expanding around the country and there are programs in 29 states. However, our state program is very very limited and is not available to all students. I firmly believe that by embracing a robust menu of school choice options, everyone wins. Schools around the state would become more competitive and work harder to attract/retain students. Programs would be enhanced for the betterment of students and our community at large.

Financing educational choice is always the issue. If we can all agree that educational tax dollars are to be used for the education of our youth and not for the entitlement of any one program, then we should all agree that those tax dollars should follow the student to the educational option that best suits the needs of the student.

My question to the committee is why not open this up for discussion among the tax payers in this state? Let's host some hearings and allow people to come forward and testify their thoughts on this subject. Wouldn't that truly be representative governing?

Thanks for your interest. If I can help in any way, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ed Bastia
[REDACTED]