

# State of Rhode Island

SENATOR  
**SANDRA CANO**  
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## Senate Chamber

CHAIRWOMAN  
Committee on Education

Committee on  
Finance

Hon. Gregg M. Amore  
Secretary of State  
State House, Room 217  
Providence, RI 02903

Hon. Dominick J. Ruggerio  
President of the Senate  
State House, Room 318  
Providence, RI 02903

September 12, 2024

Dear Mr. Secretary and Mr. President:

I write today with a mix joy and sadness: joy at the opportunity to serve in a new capacity in a field about which I have long been passionate, and sadness that pursuing this opportunity requires my departure from the Senate.

I will have more to announce about my future endeavors in the coming weeks. While I will always strive to continue my public service in different ways, today I must resign from the Rhode Island Senate effective immediately and withdraw my candidacy for Senate District 8.

Representing the people of Pawtucket in the Senate has been the honor of my lifetime. I hope and believe that I was able to bring about impactful change through my service, and I look forward to continuing to contribute to building stronger communities in new ways in the future.

When I reflect upon the progress we have made, I am filled with gratitude for the dedication and collaboration of countless colleagues in government, community advocates, and members of the public, who have all worked tirelessly to bring about positive change.

Working together, we improved the education formula to better support multilanguage learners, made investment in early childhood education a central priority, and strengthened mental health supports for students. We expanded access to health coverage for all Rhode Islanders and increased access to fertility treatments.

Much of my focus during my time in the Senate has been in the support of the small businesses trying to establish and grow in our communities. I was proud to advocate strongly on behalf of minority-owned businesses. Among the legislation I am most proud of is the new law instituting a financial literacy requirement in schools, which I worked on in collaboration with then-Treasurer Seth Magaziner. This important initiative will ensure Rhode Island students are better equipped to understand the financial complexities of today's society.

Only in these great United States of America could my personal story even exist. I remain awestruck that a refugee who fled guerilla violence in Colombia and arrived in our country not knowing the language could have such tremendous opportunities. I am grateful for the sustaining support of my community, the countless dedicated educators who helped me realize my potential, and, most of all, my loving family. In this land of opportunity, there is no limit to what one can achieve with hard work and dedication. I have lived my American Dream, and I look forward to helping others achieve theirs.

While I embrace the opportunity ahead, I will always treasure the support and friendship of my amazing colleagues in the Senate. Without exception, each and every one of them shares a deep and abiding dedication to improving our state. They work hard, genuinely care, and continue to inspire me every day. Serving alongside them has been the greatest honor of my life.

Sincerely,



Sandra Cano

Cc:

Members of the Rhode Island Senate  
Members of the Rhode Island House of Representatives  
Helena S. Reid, Secretary of the Senate  
Donald R. Grebien, Mayor of Pawtucket