

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RHODE ISLAND SENATE BILL 2239
REGARDING LOCAL AUTHORITY OVER UNFUNDED
EDUCATION MANDATES**

WHEREAS, Rhode Island school districts are responsible for providing high-quality educational opportunities to all students, and must do so within the financial constraints placed upon them by state law, local appropriations, and taxpayer capacity; and

WHEREAS, over time, numerous state-imposed education mandates have required school districts to implement programs, services, reporting requirements, and operational changes without providing the full funding necessary to carry them out; and

WHEREAS, unfunded or underfunded mandates place significant strain on local school budgets, often forcing districts to divert resources away from core instructional needs, student services, and locally determined priorities; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island Senate Bill 2239 seeks to restore local decision-making authority by allowing school districts to elect **not** to expend local funds on any state mandate that is **not fully funded** through the state education aid formula or through other state funding administered by the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE); and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 2239 promotes fiscal responsibility, transparency, and accountability by ensuring that the State of Rhode Island fully funds the mandates it imposes, rather than shifting the financial burden to municipalities and local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, granting school districts the ability to decline unfunded mandates will help preserve educational quality, protect local budgets, and support long-term financial sustainability; and

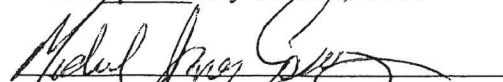
WHEREAS, the principles embodied in Senate Bill 2239 align with the longstanding position of many Rhode Island municipalities and school committees that state mandates should be accompanied by adequate state funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hopkinton Town Council hereby expresses its **strong support** for Rhode Island Senate Bill 2239 and urges the Rhode Island General Assembly to enact this legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, the Governor of Rhode Island, and the members of the General Assembly representing the Town of Hopkinton.

The **RESOLUTION** shall take effect upon passage.

Passed as a resolution of the Hopkinton Town Council this 1st day of June, 2026.



Michael James Geary, President
Hopkinton Town Council

ATTEST: Marita D. Murray
Marita D. Murray, Town Clerk

