



# WARWICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PHILIP THORNTON, Ed.D.  
SUPERINTENDENT

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July 14, 2017

State of Rhode Island  
Office of the Governor  
The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo

Dear Governor Raimondo:

On behalf of Warwick Public Schools, I am respectfully requesting you veto House Bill 5593 and Senate Bill 285. Adopting a mandate for contract continuation will have a devastating impact on the City of Warwick. The Bill will literally tie the hands of the School Committee and City Council. Bills H-5593 and S-285 removes incentive for public unions to negotiate in good faith and thus puts added expense on taxpayers.

The Warwick School Committee has been in mediation with the Warwick Teachers Union for two years. The Mediator's decision from last best offers was voted on and approved by the School Committee on July 11, 2017. The countless hours and efforts to change contract language that hurts students and costs taxpayers would serve no purpose if this bill becomes law.

With continued contract language in place;

- closure of schools would not occur saving the City of Warwick 2.5 million dollars.
- weighting of special education students would continue and cause huge scheduling and space issues at the secondary schools forcing double sessions in September
- the antiquated language that allows 90 paid sick days out of 181 working days would still exist

Once again, I am asking that you strongly consider vetoing this bad legislation introduced by the House and Senate.

Sincerely,

Philip Thornton, Ed. D.  
Superintendent