



State of Rhode Island  
Office of the General Treasurer  
State House – Room 102  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

**Seth Magaziner**  
General Treasurer

March 17, 2021

Honorable Anastasia Williams, Chair  
House Committee on Labor

RE: H5718- An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations – Fair Employment Practices  
H5852- An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations – Fair Employment Practices  
H5853- An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations – Fair Employment Practices  
H5854- An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations – Fair Employment Practices

Dear Chair Williams,

I write to express my support for H5718, H5852, H5853 and H5854, legislation to improve protections for Rhode Island workers from sexual harassment and discrimination.

The bills you are hearing today provide workers who have experienced sexual harassment or discrimination opportunities to seek justice. Employers would no longer be able to force workers to sign non-disclosure agreements to stay silent about criminal conduct or violations of their civil rights. Employees who experienced harassment will be able to hold their perpetrators personally liable for their conduct. Finally, expanding the definition of employee to include workers in the gig economy – which has grown during the pandemic – are also protected.

These pieces of legislation are central to our work to end systemic sexual harassment in workplaces across the state.

As Treasurer, my goal is to promote economic growth and financial stability for all Rhode Islanders. For this to be achieved, every Rhode Islander must have a workplace that is free of harassment - and the mental, physical, and economic harm that it causes.

I urge the support of this Committee and the full House.

Sincerely,

  
Seth Magaziner

cc: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Labor  
Honorable K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker of the House  
Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee  
Honorable Teresa Tanzi