



Honorable Anastasia Williams
Chairperson, House Committee on Labor
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

March 17, 2021

Re: HB 5854- amends the definition of employees to include gig workers for purposes of the fair employment practices chapter.

Chairperson Williams,

The undersigned members of the Rhode Island Business Coalition oppose HB 5854- amends the definition of employees to include gig workers for purposes of the fair employment practices chapter. This legislation includes any person under the direction and control of an employer under any appointment of contract of hire or apprenticeship. This also expands the practices to both employees and interns.

The expansion of this definition leaves many questions unanswered in this legislation. The definition of employee is too broad. Are volunteers and interns eligible for benefits that full time employees may be eligible for? What are the guidelines around workers compensation for volunteers and interns? Has there been a cost analysis on the impact of this legislation on businesses who use volunteers and interns as well as gig workers?

We respectfully ask that you take no further action on this legislation.

Sincerely,

NFIB – Christopher Carlozzi, State Director

Rhode Island Small Business Economic Summit – Grafton Willey, Tax and Budget Committee
Chairman

Rhode Island Society of Certified Public Accountants – Melissa Travis, President

Rhode Island Hospitality Association – Dale J. Venturini, President/CEO

Rhode Island Lumber and Building Materials Dealers Association – Kirk Ives, Regional Director

Rhode Island Manufacturers Association – David M. Chenevert, Executive Director

Rhode Island Association of REALTORS® – Philip Tedesco, CEO

Rhode Island Staffing, William Roth, Executive Director

Ivy Wealth Management, Ralph Capollo