



GENERAL TEAMSTERS LOCAL 251

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Washington, D.C.

February 24, 2021

Representative Anastasia Williams
House Labor Chairwoman
via HouseLabor@rilegislature.gov

Matthew Taibi For House Bill No. 5263

Ms. Chairwoman:

On behalf of our nearly 6000 Rhode Island members, Teamsters Local 251 strongly supports H5263, which eliminates the exemption for domestic workers to be eligible for state minimum wage. The bill is before the House Labor Committee today, and we urge its passage.

The minimum wage was intended to be a living wage, so that all workers had a means of subsistence for themselves and their families. Unfortunately, domestic workers have not be able to enjoy even the meager minimum wage as it exists now. An improvement of wages for those most overlooked and lowest paid is an improvement to the overall labor market and the economy. Increasing wages for the lowest paid workers directly benefits economic growth and overall wage growth.

I urge this Committee to strongly consider H5263 to include domestic workers in the minimum wage, in order to help the economy of Rhode Island and help these workers earn much closer to a living wage.

Sincerely,

Matthew Taibi
Secretary Treasurer
Principal Officer

Matthew Taibi
*Secretary-Treasurer
Principal Officer*

Paul Santos
*President &
Business Agent*

Matthew Maini
Business Agent

David Robbins
*Contract Coordinator/
Business Agent*

Bob Sayer
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Thomas Salvatore
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MT

CC: House Labor Committee Representatives
Paul MacDonald

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General Teamsters in the entire state of Rhode Island and Southern Massachusetts including but not limited to the towns of Assonet, Fall River, Rehoboth, Seekonk, Somerset, Swansea and Westport.