

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND



**Department of Labor and Training**

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Gina M. Raimondo  
Governor

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Acting Director

February 24, 2021

The Honorable Anastasia Williams  
House Committee on Labor, Chair  
State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Re: 2021 H 5619

Dear Chair Williams:

I am writing today to offer the Department of Labor and Training's support for 2021 H 5619, An Act Related to Labor and Labor Relations – Employment of Women and Children.

An informed workforce is a vital part of Rhode Island's economy. Workers who understand their rights and responsibilities are able to make better choices for themselves, their coworkers, and their employers. They can assist with compliance and ensure a safer worksite for all. The network of federal, state, and occupational-level regulations related to employment, workers' rights, and on-the-job conditions can be large. While complex, when properly explained, these laws and regulations can easily be made understandable in a relatively short period of time.

Those who are first entering the workforce, youth aged 14 and 15, are most in need of information about their rights and responsibilities due to their inexperience in employment. This bill would create an effective mechanism for ensuring that they are provided with a quality program of education that is both time-efficient and accessible.

If this legislation is signed into law, The Department will work with a range of stakeholders in developing the necessary regulations to ensure that this provision is successfully implemented and that it does not present any additional burden on youth and their families.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me at (401) 462-8870 or via email at [Matthew.Weldon@dlt.ri.gov](mailto:Matthew.Weldon@dlt.ri.gov) if you have any questions.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matthew'.

Matthew D. Weldon  
Acting Director