



March 9, 2021

Hon. Anastasia Williams
Chairwoman
Committee on Labor
State of Rhode Island House of Representatives
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for: H-6011; An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations

Dear Chairwoman Williams:

BuildRI is a domestic non-profit trade association comprised of four (4) contractor associations (the Labor Relations Division of the RI Chapter of the Associated General Contractors, the New England Mechanical Contractors' Ass'n, the RI Mason Contractors' Ass'n, and the RI and Southeast MA Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors' Ass'n), and eighteen (18) Local Trade Unions. On behalf of our organization, I write to offer our unqualified **SUPPORT** of this Bill for the reasons that follow.

Currently, the unionized construction industry has unique challenges in implementing the Healthy and Safe Families Workplaces Act (hereinafter the "Act") because the union members we represent and hire are regularly dispatched to multiple signatory employers within the same year. *These members go from job-to-job and contractor-to-contractor within a year on a regular basis. Therefore, many of our members are not employed long enough with the same employer to enjoy the full benefits of the Act.*

H-6011 allows signatory multi-employer trust funds to administer the paid sick leave and safe leave employee benefits allowed under the Act so that union members can receive the benefits of the Act even though they could have multiple employers through the course of any one year. It will also allow signatory employers to utilize a third party federally regulated trust fund to administer the benefit if it is negotiated through the collective bargaining process.

We believe that this modification is in accord with the intent of this Act. It is an adjustment to the law that both labor and management request. Furthermore, *this adjustment is permissive in that it is a mandate; rather, something that has to be negotiated through the collective bargaining agreement process.* That way the members of our unions that work for multiple employers throughout the course of a year will become eligible and possibly receive the

134 Thurbers Avenue, suite 213, Providence, RI 02905
P: 401-553-2100; F: 401-553-5855
www.buildri.org

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full benefits of the Act and individual signatory contractors do not have the challenging administrative burden that is placed upon them by the Act.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Gregory A. Mancini
Executive Director/General Counsel

cc: Committee members