

Cindy Petruccillo/The University of Rhode Island

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I am for Bill H7158

I am writing in support of the proposed bill to expand access to health insurance for adjunct faculty, including those at state community colleges, state colleges, and state universities who teach at least fifty percent (50%) of a full-time faculty course load in a given semester.

I am an alumna of the University of Rhode Island and have been teaching there as an adjunct since 2019. My work in the classroom is important to me, and I've remained committed to my students and the program over the years.

At the same time, like many adjunct faculty, I live with a level of financial uncertainty. As a single homeowner, I am responsible for all of my expenses, and not having access to affordable health insurance is a real and ongoing concern. It's often difficult to balance the demands of teaching with the reality that the position does not include basic benefits.

Adjunct faculty play a significant role in higher education. We teach courses, support students, and help maintain the strength of academic programs. Expanding access to health insurance—especially for those of us teaching at least half of a full-time load—would recognize that contribution in a meaningful way.

This bill would make a real difference. It would provide stability and make it more possible for adjunct faculty to continue doing this work.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cindy Petruccillo