

Thank you so much for submitting bill 7158, an act relating to insurance benefits for adjunct faculty. I appreciate the intent of this bill. Adjunct faculty are the key that holds all of our institutions of higher learning together. Part time faculty teach the majority of courses at CCRI, and the college could not function without us. As we work for the state of Rhode Island, we should be treated like all other state employees. As of today, the part time faculty at CCRI make less than all other part time faculty in institutions of higher learning in Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. The salary is so low, many of my members are forced to work multiple jobs at multiple institutions just to make ends meet. Many can't afford health insurance (even through the marketplace).

Although the intent of 7158 is appreciated, the language is ambiguous. Do you mean 50% of the clock time a full-time instructor works (ie: 20 hours per week) or 50% of the credit hours they teach? The rule at CCRI is that adjunct faculty are only allowed to work a maximum of 8.5 hours per week. I have never understood this restriction. If the bill is written as clock hours, adjunct faculty will NEVER be able to work 20 hours per week (one half of the full timers) and therefore will NEVER be eligible to receive the healthcare insurance this bill wants to provide.

I thank you for your consideration and ask that you clarify the language.

Dr. Joel Gluck  
President, CCRI Part Time Faculty Association