

My name is Ewa Romaszewicz, and I am an adjunct professor who has been teaching in Rhode Island for over 15 years, at the University of Rhode Island and the Community College of Rhode Island.

I am writing to support House bill 7158 because it addresses a structural problem that has been ignored for too long.

Many adjunct faculty are, in practice, full-time workers. We teach at multiple institutions, commute between campuses, prepare courses, grade, meet with students, and perform the same intellectual and emotional labor expected of full-time faculty. Yet we are paid per course, without real stability, without a living salary, and critically, without benefits. This means that on top of already reduced and unpredictable income, we are left to independently secure and finance our own health insurance.

I have dedicated fifteen years of my life to educating students in this state. Despite that, I could not afford to send my own child to the university where I teach, even with academic scholarships. That outcome reflects a system that undervalues the very educators it depends on.

Adjuncts now make up a significant portion of the higher education workforce. In many cases, the total compensation an adjunct receives for teaching a course is less than the tuition paid by a single student in that class. This imbalance is difficult to justify.

Beyond the classroom, adjunct faculty regularly provide unpaid labor that sustains the academic experience: mentoring students, supervising independent studies, writing letters of recommendation, and offering support well beyond contracted hours. We do this because we are committed to our students and to the institutions we serve, not because we are paid for it.

Adjuncts are highly educated professionals. Many of us hold advanced degrees, including MFAs and PhDs. We are essential to the universities where we teach.

In a country with the resources of the United States, access to health care should not be contingent on holding a specific employment classification. Extending health care access to adjunct faculty is a reasonable and necessary step toward a more equitable system.

Providing health care would not only improve the basic well-being of adjunct faculty, but

also signal that the state values the people responsible for educating its residents. It would strengthen morale, reduce instability, and ultimately benefit students.

I urge you to support this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

<https://www.ewastudio.com/>