

Professor Robert Burns

The University of Rhode Island

Home Address:

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April 29, 2026

RE: **House Bill No. 7158** AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES --
INSURANCE BENEFITS {LC4182/1}

Dear Legislators:

Thank you for reading my message.

As an Adjunct Faculty Member since September 1989, or 36 Years, I urge you to support Bill # H7158. This Bill, in support of your many Adjuncts at URI will help us to survive. Most of us are the working poor in Rhode Island and we have NO benefits and yet we often do the majority of teaching at our State institutions.

Further, we often have 3 major problems:

1. Low pay and almost no income.
2. No Benefits and it impacts our lives on a daily basis. Health Insurance is costly and yet we have VERY little income to purchase it!
3. Very little respect received from the people who are supposed to care about us...namely our State leaders!

I plead with you to support this Bill, # H7158, and take pity on us who often have to work two and three jobs and who do the majority of teaching in Rhode Island's Higher Educational Institutions!

I cared for my parents for over 20 years, and it was tough on me financially every day! My Dad, a Veteran of the Second World War, and my Mom, a Homemaker who was an invalid (she could not walk). My Dad was a Vet of World War II and had wounds and Parkinson's

Disease and yet he never complained. Further, he landed at Normandy, was wounded in the Battle of the Bulge, and was one of the Liberators of the Nazi Death Camp, Buchenwald! It was there he met and befriended a young Elie Wiesel. Dr. Wiesel wrote his famous speech, The Perils of Indifference, about my Dad and his men who freed him from “hell.”

My Dad and Mom believed someone would eventually give their son benefits, fair pay, and respect. After all, they both suffered so much in World War II and they believed in the American Dream.

I ask you to give me and my other Adjunct colleagues some real HELP! Please approve H7158!

Yours sincerely,

Robert E. Burns