



May 12, 2026

SEIU 1199NE Position in Support of H-7466 – Rhode Island Individual Market Affordability Act and H-7797 – Rhode Island Baby Bonds Trust (House Finance Committee)

Dear Chairman Abney and Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee:

On behalf of SEIU 1199NE, representing thousands of healthcare and social service workers across Rhode Island, I write in strong support of H-7466 and H-7797.

H-7466 addresses a very real and immediate problem. With the expiration of nearly \$60 million in federal ACA subsidies, many low- and moderate-income Rhode Islanders are facing sharp increases in health insurance costs. We have members—particularly family child care providers and home care workers—who have seen their monthly health insurance premiums double to over \$1,000 per month since the ACA tax credits expired. That kind of increase is simply unsustainable. For workers already balancing the rising cost of housing, food, and childcare, this forces impossible choices about whether to maintain coverage at all. When people lose access to affordable insurance, they delay care, skip medications, and ultimately end up sicker and in more costly emergency situations. This bill is a practical step to stabilize the individual market and ensure that working people can continue to access the care they need.

H-7797 takes a longer view but is just as important. The Baby Bonds Trust is about giving children from low-income families a fair shot at economic stability. Many of our members care for patients every day who are dealing with the long-term impacts of poverty—poor health outcomes, housing instability, and limited economic opportunity. By investing early through Baby Bonds, Rhode Island can begin to break that cycle. Using unclaimed property remittances is a smart and responsible way to fund this initiative without placing additional strain on working families.

These two bills work in tandem: one protects people from falling behind today, and the other helps ensure the next generation has a better path forward. Both are grounded in the reality that economic security and health are deeply connected.

We urge the Committee to support H-7466 and H-7797 and move them forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Alex Moore

Political Director

SEIU 1199NE

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