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To the Members of the House Committee on Labor,  
Rhode Island House of Representatives

Subject: Support for House Bill 7106

Dear Committee Members,

As the Political Director of SEIU 1199NE in Rhode Island, I write to you in firm support of House Bill 7106. This legislation is not just a theoretical necessity; it is a practical response to real challenges faced by our members, including experiences like those of Virgil Soares at Butler Hospital, who has provided his own testimony.

Our members have been subjected to captive audience meetings, where they are coerced into listening to anti-union rhetoric, often under the guise of mandatory workplace meetings. These practices infringe upon workers' rights to free speech and association. The passage of House Bill 7106 will be a significant move in protecting workers from such coercive tactics.

Connecticut and Maine have set a precedent in this regard, and it is time for Rhode Island to follow suit. By outlawing captive audience meetings, we not only protect our workers but also endorse a culture of respect and ethical behavior in the workplace.

The experiences of our members highlight the urgency of this bill. It's about real people, like Virgil, who face undue pressure in their workplace. We urge the committee to pass this bill, joining our neighboring states in safeguarding the dignity and autonomy of our workers. Thank you for considering this critical legislation and standing with the workers of Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Alex Moore