



**Champion Advocacy  
Associates**

April 10, 2024

The Honorable Arthur Corvese  
House Labor Committee  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Corvese and Committee Members:

The Northern RI Chamber of Commerce (NRICC) represents businesses in the communities of Burrillville, Central Falls, Cumberland, Foster, Glocester, Johnston, Lincoln, North Providence, North Smithfield, Pawtucket, Scituate, Smithfield and Woonsocket.

The Chamber is opposed to the passage of H.7793, An Act Relating to Labor Relations – Rhode Island Parental and Family Medical Leave Act. This bill increases the number of benefit weeks provided to employees from thirteen weeks every two years, to twenty-four weeks every two years.

While the Chamber understands that this is unpaid leave, the employer must still keep the employee's job waiting for the person's return. Employers are having an extremely difficult time attracting employees. Finding temporary workers can be even more challenging. Should H.7793 pass, employers will be looking for replacements for almost six months, at a time when they cannot find employees for a full year. This is a very high burden at a time when businesses are least able to adapt.

Additionally, should the proponents of the expansion of the state's Temporary Caregiver Insurance (TCI) program be successful, the expansion of Family Leave, together with the expansion of TCI would leave employers trying to find replacement employees for up to nine months.

Thank you for your consideration of the Chamber's concern.

Respectfully,

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