

My name is Rory Carmody, and I serve as the Workforce Director for AccessPoint RI. Our organization is dedicated to supporting individuals with disabilities and others facing barriers to employment. We have been a proud recipient of a Real Jobs grant (the Rhode MAP) and have seen firsthand the impact of effective workforce training programs.

I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 5942. Like many industries, the hospitality sector continues to struggle with workforce shortages, not due to a lack of customers but because of challenges in recruiting and retaining staff. A long-term solution lies in training and employing individuals with disabilities—an underutilized yet highly capable workforce.

Research supports this approach. A recent Accenture report, *The Disability Inclusion Imperative*, found that businesses actively employing people with disabilities outperform their competitors, generating 1.6 times more revenue, 2.6 times the net income, and double the profit. Additionally, these businesses see a 25% increase in productivity.

Investing in workforce training, especially inclusive programs that support employees with disabilities, benefits businesses and strengthens Rhode Island's economy. As federal resources decline and our state faces structural deficits, supplemental funding for programs like Real Jobs RI is more critical than ever. A well-funded, inclusive training program not only helps businesses address workforce shortages but also creates lasting economic opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

We urge your support for House Bill 5942 to ensure that Rhode Island continues to invest in effective, inclusive workforce solutions. Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and share our experiences at AccessPoint RI.

Sincerely,
Rory Carmody

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