

Via Email Only to James DeCastro, Committee Clerk: HouseLabor@rilegislature.gov

April 2, 2025

Honorable Arthur J. Corvese
Chairman, House Labor Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H5944 - AN ACT RELATING TO HOLIDAYS AND DAYS OF SPECIAL OBSERVANCE
- HOLIDAYS AND SUNDAYS

Dear Chairman Corvese and Honorable Members of the House Labor Committee:

I am the Owner of The Glass Station Studio and Gallery, a small business located in Wakefield, Rhode Island that provides the following goods and services: hand-blown glass and jewelry.

I am writing to express our strong support for H5944 - AN ACT RELATING TO HOLIDAYS AND DAYS OF SPECIAL OBSERVANCE - HOLIDAYS AND SUNDAYS, which re-defines an “employer” for purposes of Rhode Island’s Sunday and holiday premium pay law for non-retail employers to those who employ fifteen (15) or more employees.

Small businesses like The Glass Station are the backbone of the Rhode Island economy. They create jobs and contribute to the vibrancy of our local communities. Accordingly, bills like H5944 that eliminate employer burdensome employer mandates, reduce barriers to growth and expansion, and that make it easier to do business in Rhode Island are crucial for small businesses like ours to survive and thrive.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, small businesses like The Glass Station have faced unprecedented economic challenges, including:

- Persistent inflation. The cost of goods, materials, and supplies essential to our business remains stubbornly high.
- Dramatic year-over-year increases in our utility bills.
- Lingering supply chain disruptions caused by the pandemic and the growing uncertainty over U.S. tariff policy.

- Intense competition from large corporations and online retailers.
- A competitive labor market that makes it difficult to recruit and retain talent.
- Lack of access to capital due to rising interest rates.

The list of factors making it difficult for small businesses to make a profit goes on and on.

By eliminating the requirement for small employers with fewer than fifteen (15) employees to pay time and a half to their hourly, non-exempt employees for work performed on Sundays and legal holidays (absent a collective bargaining agreement or employment contract), the General Assembly is taking an important step toward improving the overall business climate in our state. For this reason, The Glass Station strongly supports H5944.

Sincerely,

_____*Jennifer Nauck*_____

Jennifer Nauck

Co-owner

The Glass Station Studio and Gallery.