

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 KNIT CLUB, a small business located in Providence, Rhode Island that provides the following goods and services : yarn, knitting classes (which people love to take on sundays), and community gatherings.

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 Knit Club 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 Knit Club 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, Knit Club strongly supports H5944.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Degen

Owner

KNIT CLUB (DEGEN.us LLC)

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[DEGEN.US](http://DEGEN.US)