



To: House Committee on Labor
From: Karen Malcolm, Protect Our Healthcare Coalition (ProtectRIHealth@gmail.com)
Date: April 9, 2025
Re: **SUPPORT H6066** – Paid Family Leave/Temporary Caregiver Insurance

The Protect Our HealthCare Coalition is a group of leading Rhode Island non-profits and consumer groups with a goal to protect, improve, and expand equitable access to quality, person-centered, affordable health care for all.

The Coalition strongly **supports House Bill 6066**. The economic and health benefits of paid family leave/TCI are well documented.¹

Importantly, this bill's emphasis on increasing the wage reimbursement to 85%, expanding the definition of caregiver to include grandparents and siblings, and expanding participation to self-employed Rhode Islanders will positively impact us all.

The health and development of children will be impacted by their parent's ability to take the doctor-recommended amount of time to bond with their newborns. And Rhode Islanders who are elderly or disabled will be impacted by their family members increased ability to care for them at home, which has been shown to reduce the need for nursing home care, benefitting us all by reducing costs to Medicaid.² In fact, if they need care, about nine out of ten older adults would prefer to get it at home or with friends or family.³

H6066 is an important update to the state's Paid Family Leave Act that will impact the health and economic well-being of all Rhode Islanders.

We urge your support. Thank you.

Protect Our Healthcare Coalition partners include: Economic Progress Institute, RIPIN, Mental Health Association RI, RI Health Center Association, Latino Policy Institute, Central Providence Opportunities: A Health Equity Zone (CPO-HEZ), United Way of Rhode Island, Senior Agenda Coalition RI, RI Medical Society, Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, SEIU Rhode Island Council, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Leukemia/Lymphoma Society, RI Coalition for the Homeless, Rhode Island Working Families Party, Mental Health Recovery Coalition, RI Community Food Bank, RI Psychological Association, Substance Use & Mental Health Leadership Council, Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families, HousingWorks RI, Rhode Island Organizing Project (RIOP), National Association of Social Workers RI Chapter, The Womxn Project, Advocates for Better Care

¹ <https://www.jec.senate.gov/public/cache/files/646d2340-dcd4-4614-ada9-be5b1c3f445c/jec-fact-sheet---economic-benefits-of-paid-leave.pdf>

² <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29320809/>

³ https://apnorc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/LTC_Report_AgingatHome_final.pdf