

April 9, 2025

The Honorable Arthur Corvese Chairman, 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.6066, An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations – Temporary Disability Insurance. The bill expands the TCI benefit to cover employees who wish to take time to care for a sibling (including half-siblings and foster siblings), a grandchild or a "care recipient." A "care recipient" is defined as "a person for whom the employee is responsible for providing or arranging health or safety related care, including, but not limited to, helping the person obtain diagnostic, preventive, routine, or therapeutic health treatment."

This provision creates a high burden on employers as employees can take leave to care for a neighbor, friend, or stranger. While well-meaning the absent employee places hardships on the business trying to meet customer needs and to the co-workers who must take on additional responsibilities. Employers are having an extremely difficult time attracting employees. Finding temporary workers can be even more challenging. H.6066 creates another reason for businesses to choose location in another state.

Respectfully,

Lenette Forry-Menard Legislative Lobbyist

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