

April 9, 2025

RE: In Support of H6066- An Act Relating To Labor and Labor Relations - Temporary Disability Insurance - General Provisions

Chairman Corvese, Vice Chairs Messier and Alzate, and members of the House Labor Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for H6066- An Act Relating To Labor and Labor Relations -Temporary Disability Insurance- General Provisions. Our thanks to Representative Giraldo and co-sponsors for introduction of this bill, which will strengthen Rhode Island's General Laws related to the Temporary Caregiver Insurance program.

The Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families (RICCF) is comprised of forty-four member organizations who provide and advocate for family strengthening and support resources, comprehensive child and family services including: behavioral health, special education, juvenile justice, domestic violence, sexual assault, and healthcare services; foster care and residential treatment programs, and a strong and effective human services workforce.


The Temporary Caregiver Insurance (TCI) program, established in Rhode Island in 2014, demonstrates the state's commitment to supporting working families as caregivers of new children or family members with serious illness. TCI has enabled thousands of Rhode Islanders to care for their loved ones and bond with their babies or adoptive children during crucial developmental stages and Rhode Island was a trailblazer upon initial passage of the law.

The benefits provided under TCI offer crucial financial support to families facing unexpected caregiving responsibilities, alleviating the stress associated with medical bills, childcare costs, and lost wages. By broadening eligibility, the bill recognizes the crucial role played by caregivers for grandchildren, siblings, and others for whom caregivers are responsible. This mirrors the changes in the state's child welfare system that now recognizes relatives and kin as well as "fictive" kin who are non-relative adults with meaningful relationships and the desire/capacity to provide care. This inclusivity not only fosters intergenerational connections but also expands accessibility and equity for LGBTQ families, immigrants, people who aged out of state foster care, others who have no immediate family or relatives, and veterans.

Additionally, the bill increases wage replacement to 85% of a worker's average weekly wage which enhances economic security within families, birth and chosen, increasing stability and resilience while advancing the well-being of all.

We thank you for the opportunity to weigh in and appreciate your consideration and urge your support of H6066.

Sincerely,



Tanja Kubas Meyer
Executive Director