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February 5, 2026

The Honorable Arthur Corvese
Chairman, House Committee on Labor
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

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. We write to respectfully oppose the passage of 7362, An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations – Healthy and Safe Families and Workplaces Act.

H.7362 creates a new definition of “workweek” for employers with more than 500 employees. Any employee of a large employer must be paid time and a half if that employee works more than thirty-two hours in a week. ***The employer must also pay the same amount to the employee for the thirty-two hours as the employee received for forty hours prior to the passage of the bill.***

In essence, H.7362 requires large employers to give Rhode Island employees 52 additional days of paid vacation or be subject to overtime premium payments.

CNBC released a ranking entitled “America’s Top States for Business 2025. It applied 135 metrics across 10 key categories. Rhode Island ranked 46th for the cost of doing business, and 46th for the business friendly. Rhode Island actually fell one spot from 45th in 2024. (*CNBC America’s Top States for Business 2025 The Full Rankings*) <https://www.cnbc.com/2025/07/10/top-states-for-business-americas-2025-the-full-rankings.html> We believe the passage of H.7362 will definitely move Rhode Island further down the list, perhaps to the bottom.

For these reasons, the Northern RI Chamber of Commerce urges this committee to reject the passage of H.7362.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Monika Zuluaga".

Monika P. Zuluaga
President & CEO