



House Committee on Labor
Representative Arthur Corvese, Chair
Thursday, March 5, 2026

Chair Corvese and members of the House Committee on Labor,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on House Bill 7365. My name is David Iglesias, and I'm the Deputy Director of State Government Affairs at the Libertas Institute, a non-profit think tank based in Utah.

In 2023, our team played a key role in drafting and passing similar portable benefits legislation in [Utah](#)—the first of its kind in the nation. Since then, we've been supporting similar efforts across the country with the goal of bridging the gap between independent contractors and their access to benefits, which is exactly what H.B. 7365 bill would do.

With this multi-state perspective in mind, I'd like to offer the committee a snapshot of what we've seen so far across the country since 2023:

Following Utah's [legislation](#), two businesses—Shipt and Lyft—partnered with [Stride Health](#) to begin making voluntary contributions into “Stride Save Accounts”, which are no-fee interest-bearing savings accounts—facilitated through an FDIC-insured bank—tied directly to the workers who may then allocate those funds towards their own unique set of benefits. This empowers those workers to take their funds with them from job to job and choose benefits according to *their needs*.

In 2025, [Tennessee](#) and [Alabama](#) passed similar legislation—with Alabama's bill receiving unanimous, bipartisan support. While implementation is still early, momentum is building. In Tennessee, roofing companies are exploring portable benefits as a way to strengthen contractor retention, while in Alabama, Shipt is offering eligible Shipt shoppers [contributions](#) equal to 4% of their pre-tip earnings

This year, similar bills are under consideration in [Wyoming](#), [Georgia](#), [Mississippi](#), [Florida](#), [West Virginia](#), [New Hampshire](#)—and even [Congress](#).

Meanwhile, temporary pilot programs have been launched by DoorDash in [Pennsylvania](#), [Maryland](#), and [Georgia](#), generating valuable real-time data on worker participation and fund utilization. The findings from PA and GA were notable: nearly a quarter of eligible drivers in both states enrolled in their respective programs; over 70% of participants reported feeling more

financially secure; and over 60% of participants opened interest-bearing savings accounts for the first time. The Maryland data is still forthcoming.

How do independent workers feel about portable benefit accounts? Utah Shipt [shopper](#), Mindy, called the flexibility “wonderful to have,” saying it helped her make dreams come true for her family. One Dasher from the Pennsylvania pilot [said](#) “I’m the only one working so this is a big deal for us”, while another Dasher from Georgia [said](#) they “hope that the program would make a permanent comeback.” Most importantly, workers are actually using their funds for things like emergency expenses, paid time off, health coverage, and retirement.

Furthermore, the public agrees with the policy: according to a [2025 national poll](#), 61% of respondents support portable benefits for gig workers. What we’re seeing is clear: workers want it, businesses are willing to offer it, and the public supports it.

For these reasons, Libertas supports House Bill 7365. This legislation offers Rhode Island a rare opportunity—not only to support its independent workforce, but to position the Ocean State as a national leader on this issue, and to do so without the pitfalls of worker misclassification or the complications of redefining independent contractor status.

Thank you for your time and consideration—if there are any questions, I can be reached at david@libertas.org.