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3.5.26

Representative Arthur Corvese, Chairman
House Labor Committee
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903
HouseLabor@rilegislature.gov

RE: Support of H-7561 AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- TEMPORARY DISABILITY INSURANCE – BENEFITS

Dear Chairman Corvese,

As Business Manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 99, I represent over 1000 men and women who provide their skills through our vast network of signatory contractors in the Electrical Industry in the State of Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts. I also serve as one, if not the only, voice of the men and women who are not yet fortunate enough to be represented by an electrical labor union in the state of Rhode Island.

I am writing to you today in **support of H-7561**

Every once in a while I come across a bill and muse to myself... how is this not the law currently? An employer's obligation or provided benefit for paid time off for illness, vacation, maternity or caregiving are unrelated to Temporary Disability Insurance or Temporary Caregiver Insurance.

Many, if not most, employees in Rhode Island are required to put a significant amount of our hard earned money into TDI/TCI which is 100% funded by employee payroll deductions. Many hard working Rhode Islanders never use it. Requiring a person to exhaust their other benefits before TDI/TCI can kick in for maternity leave or any other legitimate reason that meets the TDI/TCI standard is unjust and should never have been allowed.

In conclusion, **we support the passage of H-7561** for the reasons stated above.

Sincerely,

Joseph L. Walsh, Jr. / Business Manager
cc: James DeCastro / Committee Clerk
Committee Members
Paul Macdonald / Local 99 Lobbyist
Pat Crowley/Erica Hammond RI AFL-CIO