

TO: House Labor Committee

RE: [House Bill No. 7968](#) Entitled, an Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations – Temporary Disability Insurance -- General Provisions --

Expands the benefit definitions to include a grandchild and care recipient and increases benefits period to 10 weeks for 2027 and 12 weeks for 2028 and provides a TDI/TCI opt-in option for self-employed workers.)

Dear Chairman Corvese and Members of the House Labor Committee,

I am writing in support of House Bill No. 7968, which strengthens Rhode Island's Temporary Caregiver Insurance (TCI) program and supports Rhode Island families.

Rhode Island was the first state in the nation to enact paid caregiver leave, but leadership requires that we continue to improve programs as families' needs evolve. House Bill 7968 expands eligibility to include grandchildren and care recipients, recognizing that caregiving often extends beyond traditional family relationships.

This bill also gradually increases the benefit period to 10 weeks in 2027 and 12 weeks in 2028, bringing Rhode Island more in line with other states that already provide 12 weeks of paid caregiver leave. In addition, it allows self-employed workers to opt into the program, expanding access to this important benefit.

Supporting caregivers strengthens families, workplaces, and communities. I respectfully urge you to support House Bill 7968. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marianne Kelly

Johnston, RI