



March 18, 2026

Subject: SEIU 1199NE Position in Support of H-7769

Dear Chairman Corvese and Honorable Members of the House Labor Committee:

On behalf of SEIU 1199NE, representing approximately 7,500 essential workers across Rhode Island—including healthcare workers, home care workers, and service workers—we write in strong support of H-7769.

H-7769 would raise Rhode Island’s minimum wage to \$20 per hour beginning January 1, 2027. This proposal reflects a basic reality: the cost of living in Rhode Island has risen sharply, while wages for many workers have not kept up.

We see the consequences of this gap every day. Many workers are working full-time—and often more than one job—yet still struggle to afford rent, groceries, and other basic necessities. Some delay medical care, fall behind on bills, or face constant financial stress despite doing essential work that our communities rely on.

For healthcare and long-term care workers in particular, low wages contribute to instability in the workforce. High turnover makes it harder to provide consistent, high-quality care for patients and residents. Raising the wage floor helps stabilize this workforce, improves retention, and ultimately leads to better outcomes for the people receiving care.

This is also a matter of fairness. The workers who care for our seniors, support people with disabilities, and keep our healthcare system running should not be living paycheck to paycheck.

Rhode Island has taken steps over the years to increase the minimum wage, but those increases have not kept pace with the real cost of living. H-7769 is a necessary step toward ensuring that full-time work provides a basic level of economic security.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to support H-7769.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Moore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alex Moore

Political Director

SEIU 1199NE

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