



March 18, 2026

The Honorable Arthur J. Corvese  
Chairman, House Labor Committee  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

HouseLabor@rilegislature.gov

Re: Oppose H 7769

Dear Chairman Corvese and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, I write to express our opposition to H 7769, which would increase Rhode Island's minimum wage to \$20 per hour by 2027.

While we support efforts to ensure fair wages for Rhode Island workers, this proposal represents a significant and rapid increase beyond the state's current scheduled minimum wage increases. Such a substantial jump would create considerable cost pressures for employers, particularly small and mid-sized businesses that are already navigating rising operating expenses.

The magnitude of this 25% increase may lead to unintended consequences, including reduced hiring, decreased hours for employees, increased prices for consumers, and potential scaling back of operations. For many employers, especially in retail, hospitality, and service sectors, labor costs are among the largest expenses, and sudden increases of this scale are difficult to absorb.

Rhode Island's economy remains highly competitive within the region. Policies that significantly outpace neighboring states in labor costs risk discouraging business investment and job growth.

For these reasons, the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce opposes H 7769.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Laurie White*

Laurie White  
President & CEO  
Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce