



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 7770

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 7770, which would index Rhode Island's minimum wage to the CPI (Consumer Price Index) beginning in 2029.

While we understand the intent to maintain the purchasing power of wages over time, automatic increases tied to CPI remove the opportunity for policymakers to evaluate economic conditions, workforce trends, and the financial realities facing employers.

Indexing the minimum wage to inflation creates uncertainty for businesses by introducing ongoing and potentially unpredictable labor cost increases. Employers, particularly small businesses, rely on stability and predictability to plan for hiring, expansion, and long-term investment.

Rhode Island has historically taken a measured, step-by-step approach to minimum wage increases, allowing the state to assess impacts along the way. This bill departs from that approach and may lead to unintended consequences, including reduced hiring or increased costs passed on to consumers.

For these reasons, the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests that this committee decline to approve H 7770.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Laurie White*

Laurie White  
President & CEO  
Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce