



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 7771

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 7771, which would increase Rhode Island's minimum wage to \$24 per hour by 2027.

This proposal represents a dramatic and unprecedented 50% increase in the state's minimum wage. While we support policies that promote strong wages and economic opportunity, an increase of this magnitude would impose significant cost burdens on employers across all sectors of the economy and would put a chill in hiring entry level workers.

Such a rapid escalation in labor costs may result in reduced hiring, fewer hours for employees, increased automation, and higher prices for goods and services. These impacts would be especially challenging for small businesses and nonprofits, which often operate with limited margins.

Rhode Island's economic competitiveness depends on maintaining a balanced approach to wage policy. Setting the minimum wage at a level that significantly exceeds regional norms risks discouraging investment and limiting job opportunities.

For these reasons, the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce strongly opposes H 7771.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Laurie White

Laurie White
President & CEO
Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce