



March 18, 2026

The Honorable Arthur J. Corvese, Chairman
House Committee on Labor
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H.7772, An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations – Minimum Wages – Healthcare Worker Overtime Pay

Dear Chairman Corvese,

The undersigned members of the Rhode Island Business Coalition oppose the passage of H.7772, An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations – Minimum Wages – Healthcare Worker Overtime Pay.

H.7772 requires all health care workers in hospitals, inpatient centers, ambulatory surgical or treatment centers, skilled nursing centers, residential treatment centers, diagnostic and laboratory imaging centers, rehabilitation settings and other therapeutic health settings to be paid time-and-a-half for work performed on a Sunday. Premium pay would be required even if the employee is working Sunday as a normal part of their forty-hour work week.

While well meaning, this bill will add a great cost to the health care system. According to KFF, An Independent Source for Health Policy Research, Rhode Island currently ranks 4th highest for average annual single premium per enrolled employee for employer-based health insurance. Adding premium pay for health care workers only further adds to the cost of health care premiums.

Rhode Island is on an island as it relates to overtime pay for all employees that work Sundays as a normal part of their forty-hour work week. We are the only state that requires employers to pay premium pay in this situation. Instead of proposing legislation to add employees to this outdated

The Rhode Island Business Coalition represents 50 industries and 6,280 businesses that employ 231,200 people throughout Rhode Island.

wage system, the state should be joining the other forty-nine states in eliminating premium pay for Sunday work.

For these reasons, the Coalition members urge this committee to reject the passage of H.7772.

Sincerely,

David Chenevert, Chairman, Rhode Island Business Coalition
Associated Builders and Contractors – Rhode Island Chapter
Rhode Island Staffing Association
Rhode Island Small Business Economic Summit Regulations Subcommittee
Rhode Island Small Business Summit Tax and Budget Committee

cc. House Labor Committee members