

**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF  
ELECTRICAL WORKERS**



**LOCAL 99**

Joseph L. Walsh, Jr.  
Business Manager

Wayne A. Tait  
President

3.17.26

Representative Arthur J. Corvese  
Chairman House Labor Committee  
RI State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
VIA Email: HouseLabor@rilegislature.gov

22 Amflex Drive  
Cranston, RI 02921  
P: (401) 946-9900  
F: (401) 946-9907  
www.IBEW99.org

**RE: Support H-7961 AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- PAYMENT OF WAGES**

Dear Chairman Corvese,

As Business Manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 99, I represent over 1000 men and women who provide their skills through our vast network of signatory contractors in the Electrical Industry in the State of Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts. I also serve as one, if not the only, voice of the men and women who are not yet fortunate enough to be represented by an electrical labor union in the state of Rhode Island.

I am writing to you today in **support of H-7961**

Wage theft, misclassification and non-payment to the worker is rampant in construction. Over the past century, labor unions have built in mandatory protections for the workers through bonding requirements and collectively bargained rights. Unfortunately, the un-represented workers have no such protections. General contractors typically hire the sub-contractor with the lowest price unless that sub-contractor was just on the front page of the morning paper in bracelets. We all understand that is just business what business does. Sometimes business needs to be reminded that everything they do, both positive and negative, impacts real human beings.

We have watched projects in our great state of Rhode Island be awarded to sub-contractors whose prices simply cannot support the cost of the workers, which means it is just a waiting game to see who will be misclassified or not paid at all. Of course by that time, the legitimate contractor who bid the project in a just and legal manner must struggle to keep their people working in the cesspool of bidding that goes on.

I think it is time for this state to recognize the pure and original interpretation of the three wise monkeys which is to avoid all evil thoughts and deeds and not what we often think of as to pretend something does not exist if we choose to not look, listen or speak of the problem.

This bill is a good bill. It offers legitimacy to the industry. It will not harm any legitimate contractor and will certainly offer opportunities to decent and honest sub-contractors, both union and non-union, to continue to work and operate to the high standards they wish to uphold.

In conclusion, we **strongly support H-7961** for the reasons stated above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph L. Walsh, Jr.", with a long, sweeping underline.

Joseph L. Walsh, Jr / Business Manager  
cc:  
Jimmy DeCastro / Committee Clerk  
Committee Members  
Paul MacDonald / IBEW Local 99 Lobbyist  
BuildRI  
RI AFL-CIO