



March 30, 2026

The Honorable Arthur J. Corvese  
Chairman, House Labor Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

OPPOSE H 8330 – Healthy and Safe Families and Workplaces Act

Dear Chairman Corvese and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, I write in opposition to H 8330, which would require employers to provide additional paid leave for blood donation.

The Chamber and our members strongly support blood donation efforts and recognize the critical role donors play in supporting Rhode Island's healthcare system. Many employers already encourage and accommodate employees who wish to donate blood through flexible scheduling, voluntary leave policies, and community partnerships. However, H 8330 imposes a new, mandated paid leave requirement that adds to an already complex and expanding set of workplace mandates.

Rhode Island employers are currently navigating a growing number of statutory leave requirements, including paid sick and safe leave, temporary caregiver insurance, and other workforce mandates. While each policy may be well-intentioned individually, the cumulative impact is significant—particularly for small and mid-sized employers who must manage staffing, scheduling, and operational continuity with limited resources.

H 8330 would require employers to provide up to four hours of paid leave annually for blood donation, regardless of the operational needs of the business. Even with advance notice provisions, this mandate reduces employer flexibility and may create scheduling challenges in industries that rely on shift coverage, customer-facing operations, or time-sensitive work.

Additionally, this bill sets a concerning precedent by expanding paid leave requirements beyond traditional health and safety needs into broader policy areas that could continue to grow over time. Employers are best positioned to determine how to support employee participation in activities such as blood donation in a manner that aligns with their operational realities.

A more effective approach would be to promote voluntary employer participation, public awareness campaigns, and partnerships with organizations like the Rhode Island Blood Center, rather than imposing a one-size-fits-all mandate.

For these reasons, the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce respectfully urges the Committee to oppose H 8330. We remain committed to working with policymakers on solutions that support both employee well-being and a strong, competitive business environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, angular shape that resembles a 'Z' or a similar character, followed by a horizontal line.

Laurie White  
President  
Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce