



April 15, 2026

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

Re: H.7291, An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations – Labor Relations Act

Dear Chairman Corvese:

The undersigned members of the Rhode Island Business Coalition are writing in opposition to House Bill 7291 which would fundamentally change the process for employees to express their interest in being represented by a labor organization.

This legislation would introduce a signed card check process for employees to request an election to join a collective bargaining unit. In addition, signed cards by only thirty percent of the employees would “demonstrate majority support” to move forward with an election. The signed card check process removes the ability for employees to vote their ballots in a private manner with a ballot selection only known to them.

Removing the private ballot raises serious concerns regarding employees’ ability to vote without being unduly influenced or pressured to vote a certain way. Also, we are concerned with a minority of employees being able to dictate the selection of moving forward with a collective bargaining unit election. Currently, initiatives to determine whether employees are represented done in a private ballot election, allowing employees to make such decisions without undue influence.

Also, this legislation would prohibit employers from engaging in any discussions regarding unionization efforts in their companies. We believe management should be allowed to provide information to their employees to get balanced information for and against unionization.

Rhode Island is truly a small business state with more than ninety percent of its business having fewer than 20 employees. The continued addition of burdensome requirements fall disproportionately on companies that are least able to address the issues.

For these reasons, we request that you take no action on this legislation.

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

Sincerely,

Associated Builders and Contractors – Rhode Island Chapter

East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce

Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce

Hospital Association of Rhode Island

National Federation of Independent Business

Propane Gas Association of New England

Rhode Island Bankers Association

Rhode Island Hospitality Association

Rhode Island Marine Trades Association

Rhode Island Small Business Economic Summit Regulations Committee

Rhode Island Small Business Summit Tax and Budget Committee

Rhode Island Staffing Association

cc. House Labor Committee members