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An Equal Opportunity Employer

Hon. Arthur Corvese
c/o HouseLabor@rilegislature.gov
Chairman
House Committee on Labor
State House
Providence, RI 02903

April 14, 2026

Re: Support for HB 7958; An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations—Fair Employment Practices

Dear Chairman Corvese,

On behalf of James J O'Rourke Inc., I write in strong support for HB 7958 requiring prevailing wage compliance on construction projects at healthcare facilities.

As contractors who live and work in Rhode Island, we take pride in delivering high-quality projects that serve our communities. Healthcare facilities are among the most complex and critical projects we build, requiring skilled labor, strong safety standards, and reliable project execution. Prevailing wage policies help ensure that these standards are consistently met.

This legislation is essential to maintaining a fair and competitive marketplace. Contractors who invest in workforce training, safety programs, and family-sustaining wages are too often undercut by firms that compete by lowering labor standards. Prevailing wage requirements level the playing field by ensuring that bids are based on experience, productivity, and quality, not a race to the bottom on wages and benefits.

Prevailing wage compliance also supports better project outcomes. Work performed under these standards is typically completed more safely, with higher quality workmanship and fewer delays. For healthcare facilities in particular, timely and reliable project delivery is critical to minimizing disruptions and ensuring that patients can be served without interruption.

Importantly, this policy helps keep taxpayer and healthcare dollars circulating within Rhode Island's economy. Prevailing wage requirements encourage the use of local contractors and local workers, strengthening our small business community and supporting good-paying jobs across the state.

Finally, many healthcare construction projects benefit from public support, including tax exemptions, grants, and public reimbursement systems. It is appropriate that these projects meet strong labor standards that promote accountability, quality, and long-term value.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to support this legislation. It will strengthen Rhode Island's construction industry, improve project outcomes, and ensure that our healthcare facilities are built to the highest standards for the communities they serve.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christopher W. O'Rourke
President

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