



April 15, 2026

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

Re: **Support of House Bill 7958 – An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations – Fair Employment Practices**

Dear Chair Corvese,

BuildRI is a domestic non-profit trade association comprised of four (4) contractor associations (the Labor Relations Division of the RI Chapter of the Associated General Contractors, the New England Mechanical Contractors' Ass'n, the RI Mason Contractors' Ass'n, and the RI and Southeast MA Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors' Ass'n), and seventeen (17) Local Trade Unions comprised of approximately 10,000 local tradesmen and women. On behalf of BuildRI, and our partners, we are in support for House Bill 7958.

The public has both a financial stake and a safety interest in how healthcare construction projects are delivered. Healthcare facilities are critical infrastructure and must meet the highest standards of quality and reliability. Ensuring that these projects are built efficiently and responsibly is not only an economic issue, but also a matter of public health and safety.

This legislation will help guarantee that healthcare construction projects are built, maintained, and renovated by a highly skilled, stable, and locally trained workforce capable of managing the complexity of modern healthcare facility needs. As medical care continues to evolve, so too do the facilities that support it. These projects require a workforce with the highest level of training and expertise.

Rhode Island's healthcare institutions benefit from substantial public support, including Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements, tax-exempt status, and publicly financed grants. Prevailing wage compliance ensures that these public investments are used responsibly and accountably, while also keeping dollars circulating within the local economy by supporting local workers and businesses. The proposed requirements are in line with how the state classifies public funds when allocated to construction projects; any state issue public monies should be tied to prevailing wage when allocated towards capital improvement projects.

This commitment to training and workforce quality also drives greater efficiency. Projects completed under prevailing wage standards typically experience fewer delays, fewer accidents, and fewer cost overruns. The result is a higher-quality product and better long-term value for healthcare providers and the communities they serve.

Additionally, this legislation aligns with Rhode Island's broader healthcare policy goals. In 2024, the General Assembly required that workers on prevailing wage projects receive employer-provided healthcare benefits.

Expanding prevailing wage coverage will ensure that more construction workers receive these benefits, helping to grow the pool of privately insured individuals in the state and strengthening the overall healthcare system.

Currently, many out-of-state contractors perform work on Rhode Island healthcare facilities without providing healthcare benefits to their workers. Enacting this proposed legislation will ensure those building our healthcare infrastructure also have access to healthcare themselves, supporting workforce stability and strengthening the state's health insurance market. It will also ensure that the local contractors bidding on the projects are competing on a level playing field.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge your support for this important legislation. It will strengthen accountability for public investment, improve construction outcomes, support local workers and businesses, and ensure that Rhode Island's healthcare facilities are built to the highest possible standards.

Thank you for your attention to this correspondence. Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



David Rampone
Chairman



Michael F. Sabitoni
Vice-Chairman



Gregory A. Mancini
Executive Director/
General Counsel