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RHODE ISLAND

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BUILDING TRADES

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April 15, 2026

Hon. Arthur Corvese  
c/o [HouseLabor@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseLabor@rilegislature.gov)  
Chairman  
House Committee on Labor  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

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

Dear Chairman Corvese,

The Rhode Island Building & Construction Trades Council represents seventeen (17) local unions and approximately 10,000 members. On behalf of our members and our leadership team, I write in strong support for HB 7958, which requires prevailing wage compliance on construction projects at healthcare facilities.

Healthcare facilities are among the most critical pieces of infrastructure in our state. The construction, renovation, and maintenance of these facilities demand the highest standards of safety, quality, and reliability. Prevailing wage policies help ensure that this work is performed by a highly trained, experienced, and stable workforce capable of meeting the unique and complex requirements of healthcare environments.

Rhode Island's healthcare institutions benefit from significant public support, including Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements, tax-exempt status, and publicly financed grants. It is only appropriate that these publicly supported projects meet strong labor standards that ensure accountability and maximize the return on public investment. Prevailing wage requirements help keep taxpayer dollars circulating within the local economy by supporting our local tradesmen and women, as well as our signatory contractors.

Finally, this legislation aligns with the state's broader healthcare goals. By expanding access to employer-provided healthcare benefits for construction workers, it helps strengthen Rhode Island's privately insured population while ensuring that those building our healthcare infrastructure have access to care themselves. The 17 Building Trade unions, through our health and welfare funds, account for tens of millions in healthcare expenses at our local area hospital and healthcare institutions. We are reinvesting back into the community.

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For all of these reasons, we respectfully urge you to support this important legislation. Doing so will protect workers, improve project outcomes, strengthen our local economy, and ensure that Rhode Island's healthcare facilities are built to serve our communities safely and effectively.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Sabitoni

President, Rhode Island Building and Construction Trades Council

General Secretary-Treasurer, Laborers International Union of North America