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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 Arden Engineering Constructors, I write in strong support of HB 7958, which would require 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. They require a highly skilled workforce, rigorous safety protocols, and precise coordination to ensure work is completed without disrupting patient care. Prevailing wage standards help ensure these essential requirements are consistently met.

This legislation is critical to maintaining a fair and competitive construction marketplace. Contractors who invest in workforce training, safety programs, and family-sustaining wages are 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 leads to better project outcomes. Work performed under these standards is typically safer, higher quality, and completed with fewer delays and less rework. In active healthcare environments, where construction errors can disrupt operations or compromise patient safety, reliable and skilled workmanship is not optional—it is essential. Just as importantly, prevailing wage policies keep taxpayer and healthcare dollars circulating within RI's economy. They support the use of local contractors and local workers, strengthen small businesses, and sustain middle-class careers in the building trades. At a time when healthcare projects receive significant public support, these benefits matter.

Many healthcare construction and capital improvement projects benefit from public investment through tax exemptions, grants, reimbursements, and other forms of public funding. It is appropriate and reasonable that projects supported by public dollars adhere to strong labor standards that promote accountability, quality, and long-term value.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge your support for HB 7958. This legislation will strengthen Rhode Island's construction industry, improve project outcomes, and ensure that our healthcare facilities are built and maintained to the highest standards for the communities they serve.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Cote", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Rob Cote

President

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Arden Engineering Constructors, LLC is a subsidiary of Arden Building Companies.