



June 1, 2026  
Representative Arthur Corvese, Chair  
House Labor Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence RI 02903

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 8578  
AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES – FAMILY CAREGIVERS SUPPORT ACT OF 2013**

Chair Corvese and Members of the House Labor Committee:

On behalf of United Way Rhode Island, we strongly support H 8578 which provides workplace protection for family caregivers. United Way's policy and advocacy efforts follow our strategic framework: **Strong Families, Strong Nonprofits, Strong United Way**. We prioritize policies that strengthen household stability, expand access to opportunity, and ensure public investments deliver measurable value.

Family members who care for aging and disabled Rhode Islanders are critical to the health of our community, and most family caregivers are employed in addition to their caregiving responsibilities. When employees take time to accommodate family caregiving therapy, medical appointments, or other caregiving needs, they are performing a service that meets the care needs that the Rhode Island healthcare system could not possibly meet on its own. Our state is already experiencing shortages in healthcare support, and as our population ages, the shortage will grow. If family caregivers are not protected from discrimination and they lose wages or employment, they may not be able to afford to continue to provide this care, and the healthcare system will fail to meet the needs of Rhode Islanders.

Investing in workforce development, especially in areas like healthcare, is a priority for United Way of Rhode Island. Beyond education, training, and certification, a strong, resilient workforce requires fair and equitable treatment and safe working conditions. When employees feel secure in their work, focus and productivity follow. House Bill 8578 guarantees that freedom from discrimination and supports the family caregivers that keep our economy healthy.

United Way of Rhode Island respectfully urges your support for H 8578 and thanks you for sharing our commitment to the economic security of **Strong Families**.

Very best,  
Peggy Afonso  
Housing and Economic Development Policy, United Way Rhode Island