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To Chairwoman Williams & members of the committee,

I write to you today to urge your strong support of Rep Giraldo's bill H 5720, to double the amount of paid family leave an employee has access to. It is no well-kept secret that America lags the rest of the world in providing this to its citizens. Rhode Island itself is one of the outliers for having some kind of paid family leave benefit, but only after a long & arduous fight by its advocates that resulted in what some would see as a surrenders masked as "compromise" on many fronts. This bill is urgently needed to show expecting mom's & dad's that they are welcome in the workforce. A pregnant worker should know that they will be able to be their with their child for those formative experiences just after birth, and won't have to head back to work less than 2 weeks after giving birth. Expanding the paid family leave program is good for our economy and for RI families. I urge you to swiftly consider and vote this bill out to the floor.

Thank You,

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