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To the Honorable Members of the House Committee on Labor,

My name is Kelsey Rilo, a resident of Providence, Rhode Island, and I'm writing in support of House Bill 5721: Public Health Disaster Emergency Hazard Pay.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has created a public health emergency, both in the United States and right here in Rhode Island. Workers in essential industries such as construction, telecommunications, health care, and food service, just to name a few, are putting their health at great risk in their work to keep our economy and society functioning. HB 5721 provides these workers much deserved additional compensation for their labor and for the risk they take on as a result of it.

Rhode Island is a state of hospitality, of small businesses, of specialized industries. The backbone of our state's economy are essential workers. We need to do right by them and protect the health of them and their families. Hazard pay is critical. No one should be struggling financially while working in a pandemic.

Please vote in support of this bill and in support of our workers.

Thank you,

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