



April 7, 2026

Subject: SEIU 1199NE Position in Support of H-7330 – State Healthcare Plan Eligibility for Direct Care Workers

Dear Chairman Shanley and Honorable Members of the House State Government and Elections Committee:

On behalf of SEIU 1199NE, representing approximately 7,500 healthcare, home care, and child care workers across Rhode Island, I write in strong support of H-7330.

This legislation addresses a real and ongoing problem: many of the workers who care for Rhode Islanders cannot access affordable, reliable health insurance themselves. H-7330 would allow workers in publicly funded care roles—such as home care workers and family child care providers—to opt into the state employee healthcare plan.

These workers are essential to Rhode Island’s care infrastructure. They support seniors and individuals with disabilities so they can remain safely in their homes, and they provide safe, stable environments that allow parents to work and children to thrive.

Despite their role, too many of these workers are offered coverage that is either unaffordable or inadequate, and some go without coverage altogether. The recent expiration of enhanced Affordable Care Act tax credits has made this situation worse. We have heard directly from workers in these roles whose monthly premiums increased from approximately \$300 per month to over \$1,000 per month. For many, conversations have shifted from how to earn a living to how to survive. For workers already operating on tight margins or part-time hours, those increases are simply not sustainable.

That reality contributes directly to workforce instability. Workers leave for jobs with better benefits, hours are cut, and families struggle to find consistent care.

H-7330 is a straightforward policy solution. The state is already a primary funder of this workforce through Medicaid and CCAP. Allowing these workers to access the state plan ensures that public investment supports workforce stability and continuity of care.

The bill also addresses disparities within the system. Workers performing essential care roles should not have fundamentally different access to health coverage based on how their work is structured or funded.

Strengthening access to healthcare for this workforce is a practical step toward stabilizing Rhode Island's care systems.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to pass H-7330.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the "e".

Alex Moore
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