



**RHODE ISLAND
FEDERATION OF TEACHERS AND
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS** AFT
AFL · CIO

To: House State Government & Elections
From: Jeremy Sencer, RIFTHP Field Representative
Date: April 6, 2026
Re: **State Health Plan Eligibility Expansion**
Testimony in **Support** of H 7330 (Shanley, et al.)

Chairperson and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals (RIFTHP), I submit testimony in support of **H 7330**, legislation that allows certain privately employed workers in state-funded healthcare settings to opt into the state employee health insurance plan. This bill better aligns public funding with the workers who deliver publicly supported services.

Rhode Island relies on a workforce in nursing homes, developmental disability services, and home care that is largely funded through state and federal dollars. Despite this, many of these workers do not have access to the same stable health coverage available to public employees performing comparable work. This creates inconsistency across the publicly supported workforce and contributes to ongoing staffing challenges in critical care settings.

H 7330 addresses this gap by allowing eligible workers to participate in the state health plan, creating a more unified and equitable approach to benefits for publicly funded positions. By utilizing an existing state system, the bill improves continuity and efficiency without requiring the creation of a new program. It also maintains flexibility for employers regarding premium contributions.

From our experience representing healthcare professionals, access to stable health coverage is essential to retaining a workforce that Rhode Island depends on to deliver care. Aligning benefits with public funding structures helps strengthen the system as a whole and supports the workers providing these services every day.

For these reasons, RIFTHP urges the Committee to support H 7330.

356 SMITH STREET PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02908-3761 (401) 273-9800 FAX (401) 331-8815

• Maribeth K. Calabro, President • Maria Manzi, Executive Assistant • Bridget McDonough, Administrative Assistant •
• Michael J. Mullane, Field Representative • James A. Parisi, Field Representative •
• Christopher Lambert, Field Representative • Jeremy Sencer, Field Representative •
• Sean Doyle, Field Representative •

