



3/30/26

The Honorable Robert Britto
Senate Commerce Committee
State House
Providence RI 02906

RE S-2199 Testimony in Favor

I am writing to express my support for the passage of S-2199 and to let you know that the passage of the bill would not be detrimental to the purchase or sale of an independent insurance agency. Butler & Messier Insurance is a 100 year old agency that has purchased many agencies over the years including several during the last five years.

Purchasing an agency book of business is a long term investment. The investment is recuperated over a period of five or more years by providing good local customer service to the community to maintain the customer base of the purchased agency. If anything the passage of the legislation clarifying the 180 notice provision would be a positive event but ever so slightly considering the long term nature of the transaction compared to the 180 days in question.

This legislation does not affect direct writing insurance companies like Amica and none of the major insurance company trade groups that use independent agents oppose it because they already honor the existing language and provide the 180 days notice.

The purpose of the bill is to prevent a few insurance companies from taking advantage of their position of dominance. Members of IIARI provide 1,600 good paying jobs in Rhode Island and if an insurer cuts commission percentages, the 180 day notice gives the agency time to shift duties and cut other expenses to preserve local jobs.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce Fisher-Messier".

Bruce Fisher-Messier
President

cc: Senate President Val Lawson
Senate Majority Leader Frank Ciccone
Senate Majority Whip David Tikoian
Kristen Silva



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