



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Department of Labor and Training

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Daniel J. McKee
Governor
Matthew D. Weldon
Director

March 9, 2026

The Honorable Louis P. DiPalma
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chair DiPalma:

I write today in support for the proposed \$60 million General Obligation Bond investment in the CCRI Workforce Innovation Center.

This funding will support the construction of a new Workforce Innovation Center on CCRI's Warwick campus and represents a strategic, long-term investment in Rhode Island's workforce system and economic competitiveness. The Center is designed to serve as a regional hub for career and technical education, with programming aligned to employer demand and focused on addressing critical workforce shortages across the state.

From the Department's perspective, this investment delivers value in both the short and long term. The construction of the Workforce Innovation Center will create prevailing wage jobs for our construction industry, ensuring that public dollars support fair wages and strong labor standards during the build-out of the facility. The Center will also expand the state's capacity to prepare Rhode Islanders for in-demand, family-sustaining careers, helping employers meet workforce needs and strengthening the state's economy for years to come.

The Workforce Innovation Center will also enhance coordination among education, workforce, and employer partners, enabling training programs to respond more quickly to labor market changes and ensure a stronger alignment between employer needs and worker skills.

As Director of the Department of Labor and Training, I have the honor to serve on the Workforce Innovation Center Advisory Board. This role allows me to ensure that the Center's strategy and programming are informed by labor market data, responsive to employer needs, and aligned with the state's broader workforce development priorities.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Chief Government Affairs Officer Keith Murray at keith.murray@dlt.ri.gov or (401) 462-8021.

Sincerely,

Matthew D. Weldon
Director

CC: Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee
Kristen Silvia, Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of Legislation