



April 30, 2026

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

Re: S.2019, An Act Relating to Taxation – Estate and Transfer Taxes – Liability and Computation

Dear Chairman DiPalma,

The undersigned members of the Rhode Island Business Coalition would like to express our support for Senate Bill 2019, An Act Relating to Taxation – Estate and Transfer Taxes – Liability and Computation and thank Senator Paolino for introducing this legislation.

S.2019 increases the estate tax threshold from the current level of \$1,802,431 to \$3,600,000 for deaths that occur on or after January 1, 2027. The bill then gradually increases the exemption until the estate tax is phased-out completely for deaths that occur on or after January 1, 2033. By moving to the initial exemption, Rhode Island would have a higher exemption than Massachusetts (\$2 million) but still lower than Connecticut (\$13.61 million).

It is important to note that Rhode Island is one of only twelve states with assess a tax on assets passed onto family upon someone's death. The federal exemption is currently \$15 million. According to the Tax Foundation's 2024 report, Rhode Island has the second lowest estate tax threshold in the country.¹

Financial planners tell clients every day not to die in Rhode Island based on the estate and transfer tax. We believe it would be more advantageous to encourage older individuals to keep their residency in Rhode Island, spend their discretionary income here for more than 5.9 months a year, and allow their heirs to transfer assets without burdensome taxes after their loved ones have passed.

¹ Tax Foundation, Does Your State Have An Estate Or Inheritance Tax?
<https://taxfoundation.org/data/all/state/estate-inheritance-taxes/>

The Rhode Island Business Coalition represents 50 industries and 6,280 businesses that employ 231,200 people throughout Rhode Island.

For these reasons, we support the passage of S.2019. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Associated Builders and Contractors – Rhode Island Chapter

East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce

Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce

National Federation of Independent Business

Propane Gas Association of New England

Rhode Island Association of Realtors

Rhode Island Bankers Association

Rhode Island Business Group on Health

Rhode Island Hospitality Association

Rhode Island Lumber and Building Materials Dealers Association

Rhode Island Marine Trade Association

Rhode Island Society of CPAs

Rhode Island Staffing Association

Rhode Island Small Business Economic Summit Regulations Committee

Rhode Island Small Business Economic Summit Tax and Budget Committee

cc. Senate Finance Committee members