



May 26, 2026

The Honorable Louis P. DiPalma  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02903

RE: S 2454

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the 12,000 members of the National Education Association Rhode Island, please accept this letter as testimony in support of S 2454 which would provide access to certain adjunct faculty teaching at public institutions of higher education in Rhode Island. NEARI believes this is a measured approach to providing healthcare access to a workforce that the state increasingly relies despite low pay and lack of benefits.

NEARI represents the adjunct faculty at the Community College of Rhode Island. S 2454 would provide access to health insurance coverage similar to other part-time workers at the College. It is important to point out that this does not include all adjunct professors. In order to qualify for the benefit, a professor must teach at least 50% of the teaching load of a full-time professor. Generally speaking, this would mean a minimum of two classes per semester. Also, were the bill to pass, the adjunct professors would still need to pay for their share of the cost of health insurance. Finally, just because a faculty member has access to health care, and qualifies for health care, does not guarantee they would elect to opt into health care coverage.

Many adjunct professors in Rhode Island are trying to cobble together a living by working at multiple institutions around the state at the same time. Our Union believes it is more than appropriate to show these workers the respect they deserve and offer them the opportunity to purchase health insurance like all other part-time workers in the service of Rhode Island public education. For these reasons, we urge you and your colleagues to support S 2454.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alexander Lucini".

Alexander Lucini  
Government Relations Director, NEARI