

May 26, 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the proposed legislation to extend state medical insurance eligibility to adjunct faculty at Rhode Island's public colleges and universities. These bills promote fairness and recognize the essential role adjunct faculty play in educating students across our state.

Current law allows state employees working twenty or more hours per week to receive medical benefits, but adjunct faculty are excluded because their work is measured by course load rather than hours worked. These bills would correct that inequity by allowing adjunct faculty teaching at least fifty percent of a full-time faculty load to qualify for coverage.

Adjunct faculty are vital members of our higher education system. Many have served Rhode Island College, the University of Rhode Island, and CCRI for years, teaching courses, mentoring students, preparing lessons, grading, and contributing to campus life beyond the classroom. I myself have taught as an adjunct at URI for 26 years.

Yet unlike other half-time state employees, adjunct faculty are denied access to medical insurance benefits despite carrying comparable workloads. This unequal treatment is unfair and fails to recognize their contributions to public higher education.

These bills provide a reasonable solution. Many adjunct faculty may not need coverage because they already receive benefits elsewhere, and employee cost-sharing would continue to follow collective bargaining agreements and state policy.

Rhode Island's public colleges rely heavily on adjunct faculty to maintain academic programs and support student success. Providing access to medical insurance for adjuncts teaching at least half of a full-time load is a fair and responsible step.

I respectfully urge the Senate Finance Committee to support and advance these bills.

Sincerely,

William P. Springer

3 Cartier Court

East Greenwich, RI 02818

wspringer@uri.edu