

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Sandra McGee <sandra\_mcgee@uri.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 26, 2026 2:35 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Written Testimony - Adjunct Faculty Medical Insurance 2026 H 7158 (Rep. Hull) and S 2454 (Sen. Burke)

You don't often get email from sandra\_mcgee@uri.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

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.

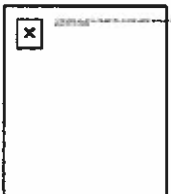
Yet unlike other half-time state employees, adjunct faculty are denied access to medical insurance benefits despite carrying comparable workloads. This unequal treatment is unfair and fails to recognize their contributions to public higher education.

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,



Sandy McGee, M.A.  
She/Her  
Instructor, University of Rhode Island  
  
(401) 266-4192 | [sandra\\_mcgee@uri.edu](mailto:sandra_mcgee@uri.edu)

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** David Brown <david\_h\_brown@uri.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 26, 2026 2:12 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Written testimony for 2026 -- S 2454

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May 26, 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing in support of this legislation as a member of the adjunct/part-time faculty union at the University of Rhode Island (RI Council 94/Local 145).

I have been teaching typically 8 credit-hours per semester since Fall of 2019, a workload which I expect exceeds the 50% of "regular full-time faculty" threshold and is certainly more work than would allow me to also hold a full-time position with benefits. I would not have been able to accept these teaching appointments without access to health coverage through my spouse. I very much appreciate the bill's sponsors support for part-time faculty's access to their own health coverage and, by extension, your support of the substantial work we do for our institutions, our students, and the State.

One administrative challenge will likely be defining "the faculty load hours worked by regular full-time faculty" given the wide variety of faculty workload distributions (typically split among one or more of teaching, research, service, and extension). I expect this would have to be negotiated in each contract, but the language in the bill seems to be a good start.

I have some concern that 36-12-1(2)(i)'s exclusion of "limited period and seasonal personnel" might exclude part-time faculty such as myself despite their insertion into the language of this section. The Spring '26 appointments, for example, were from January 21 through May 14. My inference from the dates of the appointment is that I am not an employee of the University at this moment (but might be again in September under a new appointment, should one be offered). I will trust that the legislative intent is clear enough that this will not be a problem or that the language could be revised before passage if necessary.

Would participating per-semester faculty have to activate COBRA Continuation Coverage at the end of each semester? If so, hopefully the administrative burden of this could be minimized both for part-time faculty and for administrators. Perhaps contracts could allow participating adjunct faculty to purchase coverage for periods longer than their appointment to avoid interruption. Again, that seems like a question that could wait for a negotiated solution apart from the bill itself.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely,

David Brown  
Kingston RI

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Michael Nedwidek <mnedwidek@uri.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 26, 2026 2:06 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Adjunct Faculty medical insurance eligibility

You don't often get email from mnedwidek@uri.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

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.

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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,

Michael J Nedwidek

[mnedwidek@uri.edu](mailto:mnedwidek@uri.edu)

401 575 0700

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Keith Labelle <klabelle@uri.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 26, 2026 1:07 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Healthcare Bill for adjuncts

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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.

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Sincerely,

Keith Labelle

Keith Labelle  
University of Rhode Island  
Deputy Title IX Coordinator for  
Education, Outreach & Training

3 Keaney Rd. (Tootell 125G)

Kingston, RI 02881

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[klabelle@uri.edu](mailto:klabelle@uri.edu)

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Alison Rose <arose@uri.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 26, 2026 1:10 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Testimony for Healthcare bill

You don't often get email from arose@uri.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

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.

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

Sincerely,

Alison Rose

20 Jefferson Drive, Asheville NC, 28801

[arose@uri.edu](mailto:arose@uri.edu)

Alison Rose, Ph.D.

Gender and Women's Studies

University of Rhode Island

Author of *Women, Gender, and Sexuality in the Holocaust*, Routledge, 2026; *Antisemitism, Gender Bias, and the "Hervay Affair" of 1904: Bigotry in the Austrian Alps*. Lexington Books, 2016; and *Jewish Women in Fin de siècle Vienna*. University of Texas Press, 2008.

## Jamie Plume

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**From:** Patricia Maguire <palmaguire@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 26, 2026 12:08 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance  
**Subject:** Healthcare for Adjuncts

You don't often get email from palmaguire@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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.

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

Sincerely,

Patricia Maguire

21 Shore Drive  
Charlestown, RI 02813  
palmaguire@yahoo.com