



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

**Department of Labor and Training**

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Daniel J. McKee  
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Director

January 24, 2024

The Honorable Joseph M. McNamara, Chairman  
House Education Committee  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman McNamara:

I write today in support of House bill 7019 introduced by Representative Spears and thank her for introducing this legislation to educate our state's youngest workers.

Ensuring the safety of Rhode Island's workers and their workplaces is core to the mission of the Department of Labor and Training (DLT). An important component of workplace safety and regulation is the education of workers on their rights in the workplace and benefits available to them should they get injured or need to care for family members.

House bill 7019 would establish "Workplace Readiness Week" as a week in April where all public high schools and charter schools provide information to students regarding their rights in the workplace. DLT would be responsible for developing a bi-lingual template that could be utilized by school districts to educate students on the important benefits and rights they have while being part of the workforce.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jason Martiesian, Assistant Director, at 462.8139 or [jason.martiesian@dlt.ri.gov](mailto:jason.martiesian@dlt.ri.gov).

Sincerely,

Matthew D. Weldon  
Director

cc. The Honorable Tina L. Spears  
House Education Committee members