



RHODE ISLAND  
FEDERATION OF TEACHERS AND  
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AFT AFL-CIO

To: House Education Committee  
From: James Parisi, Field Representative  
Date: January 24, 2024  
Re: **Workplace Readiness Week**  
Testimony in **support** of 2024-H 7019 (Rep. Spears et al.)

The Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals supports Representative Spear's bill to establish time every school year for students to learn about workplace issues. The information provided to students listed in the bill (page 1, lines 9-19) would be beneficial for students to have before they enter the workforce.

Learning about wage and hours laws, workplace safety, workers compensation, unemployment insurance and other essential worker rights will provide invaluable life skills to students. Further, high school students being exposed to apprenticeship programs (page 2, lines 3-5) will be of particular value to students seeking a good-paying career without incurring college debt.

The RIFTHP supports the legislation's requirement that students seeking to obtain a work permit get information on worker rights and workplace laws and regulations (page 2, lines 10-15).

It will take time and effort for school personnel to create resources necessary to implement Workplace Readiness Week. We urge the Assembly to provide resources identified by school districts for the time and expenses incurred.

The RIFTHP urges **support of H 7019**.