



Alex Moore
Political Director, SEIU 1199NE
319 Broadway
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February 7, 2024

Subject: Support for Rhode Island's Early Care and Education Workforce Data Act H-7291

Dear Members of the House Committee on Education,

As the Political Director of SEIU 1199NE in Rhode Island, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the proposed Rhode Island Early Care and Education Workforce Data Act H-7291. This legislation has the potential to significantly enhance the childcare landscape in our state by adopting a model similar to the Carina Care platform, which has demonstrated success in other states through effective partnerships with SEIU and government agencies, such as the Department of Human Services.

While Carina Care is not currently available in Rhode Island, its achievements in connecting families with quality childcare providers and facilitating seamless, meaningful matches between individual providers and families seeking care serve as an inspiring example of what we can accomplish here. Carina Care operates under the principles of ease of use, accessibility, and the promotion of good jobs and quality care through its 100% free, safe, and trusted platform. It's a testament to the power of collaboration between labor unions, government entities, and advocacy organizations to meet community needs effectively.

The proposed bill aims to create a similar environment in Rhode Island, where such a platform could:

1. **Enable Strong Partnerships:** Emulate Carina's successful partnerships with SEIU and government entities, opening the door for Rhode Island to develop a tailored solution that supports our childcare providers and families in need of care.
2. **Ensure Accessibility and Quality:** Facilitate the development of an accessible, user-friendly system that prioritizes the safety and security of care workers and families, fostering positive, caring relationships and high-quality childcare services.

- 3. Promote Equity and Economic Opportunity:** Reflect Carina's commitment to equity by increasing access and economic opportunities for historically marginalized communities, including women and people of color, within Rhode Island's care system.

By supporting H-7291, we have the opportunity to pioneer a transformative approach to childcare in Rhode Island, drawing on proven models like Carina Care to build a system that benefits all stakeholders—children, families, providers, and our community at large.

I urge you to consider the profound impact this legislation could have on the childcare sector in Rhode Island, paving the way for innovative partnerships and solutions that ensure every child has access to the best possible start in life.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Alex Moore
Political Director
SEIU 1199NE