



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

To: House Finance Committee
From: James Parisi, Field Representative
Date: April 25, 2024
Re: **Higher Education Post-Retirement Employment**
Testimony in support of 2024-H 7029 (McEntee et al.)

The Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals supports H 7029 and thank Representative McEntee for its introduction. The RIFTHP represents adjunct faculty working at Rhode Island College who have a particular interest in this legislation. H 7029 would increase the annual amount of money a retiree could earn working as an instructor, advisor, or coach without forfeiture of retirement benefits. The current annual limit is \$18,000; and the legislation raises the limit to \$25,000.

Post-retirement employment restrictions were enacted at a time when public employee retirees received 3% annual COLAs on their entire pension benefit. Public employee retirees have not had a significant adjustment to their pension payments since the Assembly cut pension benefits and severely restricted cost of living adjustments in 2011. Due to the lack of a cost-of-living adjustment, many public employee retirees maintain employment, including part-time employment teaching at public higher education institutions, to make ends meet.

Adjunct faculty at Rhode Island College who have been with the College for a period of time earn \$1,640 per credit. Courses at RIC are either three credits or four-credit courses, with most courses being four credits. Experienced Adjunct faculty at RIC currently earn \$4,920 for a three-credit course and \$6,560 for a four-credit course. Without the adjustment proposed in the legislation, public employee retirees working as adjunct faculty will have to limit their employment to a couple of courses per year.

The RIFTHP supports this adjustment to the amount of money public employee retirees can earn to \$25,000 per year and **support passage of H 7029.**

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