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Testimony of  
Christopher Carlozzi, NFIB State Director  
In Opposition to House Bill No. 5076 Article 2 Section 2  
An Act Making Appropriations for the Support of the State for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026  
Relating to State Funds -Workers' Compensation Fund  
February 6, 2025

Chairman Abney and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

My name is Christopher Carlozzi. I am the Rhode Island State Director for NFIB. A non-profit, non-partisan organization, NFIB is the nation's and our state's largest small business advocacy group. In Rhode Island, NFIB represents hundreds of small and independent business owners involved in all types of industry, including manufacturing, retail, wholesale, service, and agriculture. The average NFIB member has five employees and annual gross revenues of about \$450,000. NFIB represents the small Main Street business owners from throughout Rhode Island. On behalf of those small and independent business employers, I urge you to oppose Article 2 Section 2 of House Bill No. 5076 making changes to the state's workers' compensation fund.

NFIB opposes Article 2 Section 2 altering the administrative fund that oversees the workers' compensation system. Increasing the transfer amount from 10% to 15% will result in less employer money going into the workers' compensation system because more is going towards the general fund. This modification will likely trigger higher workers' compensation costs for employers. According to a 2024 ranking on RichStatesPoorStates.org, Rhode Island ranked 40<sup>th</sup> in the nation for workers' compensation costs.

I strongly urge you to oppose Article 2 Section 2 of House Bill No. 5076, increasing the transfer amount from 10% to 15% impacting the workers' compensation system. Thank you.