



Rhode Island Council 94

American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

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March 25, 2025

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

RI Council, 94 AFSCME opposes the elimination of Senior Research Technician Position at RI Department of Health.

Paula Pullano has worked for RIDOH for over 33 years and has over 40 years of total state service.

A comprehensive list of Ms. Pullano's duties as a Senior Research Technician is attached to this testimony.

Council 94 urges the Finance Committee to restore the Senior Research Technician FTE, for the following reasons:

- **The SRT position provides critical administrative support for the Certificate of Need, facilitates Health Council Meetings, compiles public comments, acts as a primary contact for policies and procedures, assists the Office of Primary Care with the RI Loan repayment program, and assists with onboarding new employees.**
- **The SRT position is the only RIDOH FTE reduction in the FY 2026 RIDOH budget.**
- **There is no reasonable plan or explanation of who will perform this vital work.**
- **There will be no savings from the elimination of the SRT position.**
 - **Ms. Pullano has statutory status in accordance with RIGL 36-4-59.**
 - **Additionally, due to Ms. Pullano's long tenure in state service, if the SRT position is abolished she will exercise bumping rights.**
- **Ms. Pullano has never received a complaint regarding job performance during her entire RIDOH career.**

In conclusion, Council 94 respectfully requests that the House Finance Committee reject the elimination of the Senior Research Technician position.

Sincerely,

**Michael McDonald
President**

**James A. Cenerini
Legislative Affairs/Political Action Coordinator**