



January 25, 2024

Honorable Robert Craven, Sr.
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H.7103, An Act Relating to Commercial Law – General Regulatory Provisions – Deceptive Trade Practices

Dear Chairman Craven and Committee Members,

The undersigned members of the Rhode Island Business Coalition support the passage of H.7103, An Act Relating to Commercial Law – General Regulatory Provisions – Deceptive Trade Practices.

The bill eliminates medical debt, and transactions between a health care provider and a consumer, from credit reports. H.7103 limits interest on judgments related to medical debt to three percent (3%) instead of the current rate of twelve percent (12%). Lastly, the legislation bars executions and attachments on an individual's primary residence, as well as wage garnishments, if the judgment was related to a medical debt.

From a business perspective, we believe this bill is well thought out and beneficial. Companies do not want to make hiring decisions on credit reports utilizing medical debt. It provides a false narrative of the applicant as medical debt is usually not a matter of choice and is outside the individual's control.

We urge the committee to recommend passage of H.7103. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Associated Builders and Contractors, Rhode Island

East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce

Energy Marketers Association Rhode Island

North Kingstown Chamber of Commerce

Rhode Island Beverage Association

Rhode Island Business Group on Health

Rhode Island Hospitality Association

Rhode Island Manufacturers Association

Rhode Island Marine Trades Association

Rhode Island Mortgage Bankers Association

Rhode Island Small Business Economic Summit Regulations Committee

Rhode Island Society of Certified Public Accountants

Rhode Island Staffing Association

Sustainable Benefits Strategies, LLC

The Rhode Island Business Coalition represents 50 industries and 6,280 businesses that employ 231,200 people throughout Rhode Island.