



February 12, 2024

House Committee on Labor
Rhode Island State House
HouseLabor@rilegislature.gov

Re: Testimony SUPPORTING House Bill 7171, extending paid family leave from 6 to 12 weeks

Dear Chair Corvese and Honorable Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of House Bill 7171.

ABC-RI advocates for residents of long-term care facilities, but also supports any reasonable policy that can prevent individuals from requiring such facilities. When a family member becomes ill or infirm and requires care, but not 24/7 skilled nursing care, the commonly preferred course of treatment is for them to receive care at home, but six weeks is often not enough time for one to recuperate and regain independence, and 60% of one's salary is rarely enough to live on.

Of the ten states offering similar programs, most allow for twelve weeks, and most workers receive at least 80% of their salary. In Massachusetts, workers receive 80% of their salary for twelve weeks. Workers in Connecticut receive 95% of their salary for twelve weeks. Rhode Islanders should have the same opportunity to care for their infirm loved ones at home that our neighbors do, so I urge you to please support H7171.

Thank you for your time and attention, and for all of your work on behalf of all Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Gerard,
ABC-RI