



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

**Department of Labor and Training**

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Daniel J. McKee  
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February 14, 2024

The Honorable Arthur J. Corvese, Chairman  
House Labor Committee  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Corvese:

I write today in support of House bill 7171 introduced by Representative Giraldo that would make meaningful enhancements to our state's Temporary Caregiver Insurance (TCI) program.

Rhode Island has been a leader in providing critical protections for our state's workforce. Rhode Island was the first state to enact a public short-term Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) program to ensure workers had access to disability benefits should they get injured or sick. More recently, the legislature enacted the TCI program that established a right to receive paid time off to care for a family member or to bond with a new child.

As the agency responsible for administering the TDI and TCI programs, the Department of Labor and Training recognizes the importance of the benefits they provide to working Rhode Islanders across our state. We believe this legislation strengthens the TCI program by allowing up to twelve weeks of family leave, increasing the dependent allowance, and expanding those persons who workers can take time off in order to provide care.

We believe House bill 7171 continues the work we have done over the past several years providing needed benefits for Rhode Island's working families. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jason Martiesian, Assistant Director, at 462.8139 or [Jason.martiesian@dlt.ri.gov](mailto:Jason.martiesian@dlt.ri.gov).

Sincerely,

Matthew D. Weldon  
Director

cc. The Honorable Joshua J. Giraldo  
House Labor Committee members