



Alex Moore
Political Director
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319 Broadway
Providence, RI 02909

February 14, 2024

Subject: Support for H-7171

Dear Honorable Members of the House Committee on Labor,

As the Political Director of SEIU 1199NE, representing approximately 5,000 healthcare and service workers in Rhode Island, I am writing to express our strong support for the enhancements proposed in the Temporary Caregiver Insurance (TCI) Program. This legislation is a pivotal step forward in recognizing and addressing the caregiving needs of today's workforce.

The extension of TCI benefits to twelve weeks is a crucial development for workers who find themselves balancing their professional responsibilities with significant family caregiving duties. For instance, it would greatly assist healthcare professionals like Sarah, who needed extended time off to care for her critically ill child, and Mark, a service worker who was the sole caregiver for his elderly parent with Alzheimer's.

Furthermore, expanding the definition of family within the TCI program to include a broader spectrum of caregiving situations reflects the diverse family dynamics in our community. This change would have directly benefited members like Jenna, who was unable to use TCI to care for her long-term partner because the existing definitions did not recognize her situation.

By advocating for this bill, we stand for a policy that understands the realities of modern family obligations, ensuring that our members do not have to choose between their financial security and caring for their loved ones.

We appreciate your consideration of this legislation and its potential to profoundly impact the lives of workers and their families across Rhode Island. We believe this bill represents a significant advancement in our state's commitment to supporting its workforce.

Sincerely,

Alex Moore