



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Department of Labor and Training

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Daniel J. McKee
Governor
Matthew D. Weldon
Director

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 7456 introduced by Representative Slater that would ensure the state apprenticeship laws are more consistent with federal regulations.

The Department of Labor and Training is a strong supporter of registered apprenticeship programs. Our partnership with Apprenticeship Rhode Island provides the opportunity to build new apprenticeship programs in a variety of industries including healthcare, information technology, the marine trades, and manufacturing among others.

The Department's Apprenticeship Office is responsible for:

- Registering apprenticeship programs that meet federal and state requirements.
- Protecting the safety and welfare of apprentices.
- Assuring the programs provide high-quality training and on-the-job mentoring.
- Assuring the programs produce skilled and competent workers.
- Issuing nationally-recognized and portable credentials to apprentices.
- Promoting the development of new apprenticeship programs.

We believe House bill 7456 will assist our office in continuing to support registered apprenticeship programs in a variety of industries across our state and ask for the Committee's support of this 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.

Sincerely,

Matthew D. Weldon
Director

cc. The Honorable Scott Slater
House Labor Committee members