



Marc Bialek, President
Associated Builders and Contractors, Rhode Island Chapter

Testimony Opposing of HB 7795

April 1, 2024

Dear House Labor on Committee:

As proposed, Associated Builders and Contractors is heavily opposed to HB 7795 because, if passed, it will present a hardship to small businesses that do not do a lot of prevailing wage projects and do not provide health insurance to their employees. This mandate is for Rhode Island projects...creating a difference in benefit credits for Rhode Island, Federal, and all other state projects. If we see it correctly, at a 30,000-foot view:

- If this bill passes and you do not provide health insurance for your employees (and it doesn't say if you have to pay 100% of the premium or not), you will be unable to bid on state work UNLESS you can find a program that allows you to provide health insurance on a project by project basis.
- If an open shop pays 100% on a public project, it must pay 100% on all projects, which is not fair to the contractor who does less than 85-90% public work. Removing the annualization rule so the contractor would only have to pay when on a prevailing wage project may be more acceptable to a contractor.
- This provides an additional burden for employers tracking benefit calculations.

We urge you to reject HB 7795.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions. For follow-up, I can be reached at 401-474-3740 or marc@abc.org.