



February 12, 2025

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

Re. H.5187 An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations – Labor Relations Act

Dear Chairman Corvese,

The undersigned members of the Rhode Island Business Coalition have concerns with some of the language in House Bill 5187. While we fully support fair labor practices and a healthy labor market, we are unclear of any potential financial and administrative burdens on employers across the state.

It appears this legislation is focused on public sector entities as well as colleges and universities, and their collective bargaining under the State Labor Relations Act. We have had conversations with proponents of the bill who expressed concern with worker protections on the federal level being impacted by the new administration.

As you know, employers in Rhode Island are already navigating numerous challenges, including rising costs, workforce shortages, and economic uncertainty. Adding new regulatory burdens and unpredictable penalties may discourage business expansion and investment in the state. Rhode Island's competitiveness depends on maintaining a balanced regulatory environment that promotes growth while protecting workers.

We welcome the opportunity to continue conversations with you and the proponents of this legislation to clarify and understand any potential impacts on the state's small business community.

Thank you for your consideration of our thoughts on this legislation.

The Rhode Island Business Coalition represents 50 industries and 6,280 businesses that employ 231,200 people throughout Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce

Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce

National Federation of Independent Business

North Kingstown Chamber of Commerce

Rhode Island Hospitality Association

Rhode Island Manufacturers Association

Rhode Island Marine Trade Association

Rhode Island Staffing Association

Small Business Economic Summit Tax and Budget Committee

cc. House Labor Committee members