

Written Testimony of Jasper Cattell in Favor of House Bill No. 5366
Submitted to the House Committee on Labor
February 12, 2025

Dear Chair Corvese, Vice Chair Messier, Vice Chair Alzate, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jasper Cattell, and I am the Political Director of the Graduate Labor Organization (RIFT-AFT Local 6516) and a PhD student at Brown University. I would like to express my support for Bill H5366, which would protect the livelihoods of workers in Rhode Island.

Every year, employees of contractors and subcontractors are cheated out of money and benefits they earned for their hard work. The resulting loss of wages can come with catastrophic consequences for workers, their families and their communities, while also depriving the state of tax revenue. But despite these problems, loopholes still exist that allow employers to steal workers' wages. By making it possible for workers to collect unpaid wages and benefits from the contractors and subcontractors, Bill H5366 would address an important source of wage theft and hold employers accountable for what they owe.

As a graduate worker in Rhode Island, I believe that my fellow workers should be treated fairly and should never have to worry about missing wages. It is essential, for the well-being of the workers who help build, maintain and run our state, that wage theft protections be strengthened. For this reason, I encourage the Members of the Committee to support Bill H5366.

Respectfully submitted,



Jasper Cattell
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