



## ***Rhode Island Manufacturers Association***

*The Economic Engine for Rhode Island*

March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The Honorable Chairman Arthur Corvese  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Chairman Corvese and Committee Members:

The Rhode Island Manufacturers Association which represents over 1600 manufacturers and over 40,000 employees is strongly against H-5940.

This is one of the worse bills I have seen that intrudes itself into the private sector regarding how we sell our companies. This is a total infringement of meddling in the private sector with unrealistic demands.

Most owners worked and scrapped to succeed in a difficult business climate. They work long hours and support their employees with good wages, benefits and opportunities for growth. If you have never run a business, you have no idea how hard it truly is. A person who starts his own business is trying to better his life, his family's life. This is his legacy or for many their retirement.

The state should NOT be intruding on how a private corporation must offer to sell to the company's employees. H-5940 requires a majority of businesses in Rhode Island to give all full-time and part-time employees seven-days-notice of an intent to sell all or at least 51% of the business. This requirement applies to every business employing between three and five hundred employees that is privately held and not a publicly traded company.

In many instances, a company may be testing the waters to determine the value on the open market and NOT necessarily interested in selling. This bill is a deterrent to starting and growing a business in Rhode Island. Many of our businesses are struggling with the tariff issues, training, supply chains and hidden taxes such as the workers compensation fund being used to balance the state's budget.

It is truly disappointing that such legislation was put forward without first inquiring with the business community. This is legislation that has no place in Rhode Island's business sectors and it is a step into socialism.

Regards,

David M. Chenevert  
Executive Director  
Rhode Island Manufacturers Association