



**Champion Advocacy  
Associates**

March 19, 2025

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

Chairman Corvese and Committee Members:

The Northern RI Chamber of Commerce (NRICC) represents businesses in the communities of Burrillville, Central Falls, Cumberland, Foster, Gloucester, Johnston, Lincoln, North Providence, North Smithfield, Pawtucket, Scituate, Smithfield and Woonsocket. We write to ask for clarification of H.6065, An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations - Rhode Island Bone Marrow and Organ Donor Leave Act.

H.6065 requires businesses with fifty or more employees, as well as state and certain municipal government entities to provide employee leave for organ or bone marrow donations. Employees who work thirty or more hours a week would qualify for medical leave covering medical tests, surgeries and recovery time related to the donation of an organ or bone marrow. The maximum duration of leave is thirty days for organ donation and five days for bone marrow donation.

The employer must keep a similar job open for the employee's return and continue to pay for any health insurance provided to the employee. If the employee has a co-share premium, that amount must be paid to the employer prior to taking leave.

H.6065 specifically states, "The taking of bone marrow or organ donor leave pursuant to this chapter shall not result in the loss of any benefit accrued before the date on which the leave commenced." This sounds as if an employee could take thirty days in addition to the thirteen weeks provided under Rhode Island's Parental and Family Medical Leave Act. If that is the intent of the bill, an employee could be out of work for up to nineteen weeks in a year.

The Chamber believes it would be more appropriate to consider allowing organ donation to be a legitimate use of the existing medical leave act.

Respectfully,

  
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