



April 9, 2025

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

Re: H.5448, An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations – Employment Security – General Provisions

Dear Chairman Corvese,

The undersigned members of the Rhode Island Business Coalition are writing to express concerns regarding H.5448, An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations – Employment Security – General Provisions.

H.5448 removes the unemployment insurance benefit sunset, thus allowing individuals to collect unemployment benefits if they are “partially employed,” which is defined as earning up to 150% of the weekly benefit rate the person would be entitled to if totally unemployed and eligible. The 150% threshold was adopted by the General Assembly in 2021 in an attempt to incentivize individuals to return to work during the pandemic.

The Coalition appreciates that the repeal of the sunset might continue to incentivize individuals to take part time jobs to supplement their unemployment compensation benefits. At the same time, we wish to take a hard look at what full repeal of the sunset might mean to businesses seeking full-time employees and to the unemployment insurance fund viability. We want to feel confident that there will not be unintended harmful consequences in exchange for benefits to the part-time job market.

We look forward to working with the Department of Labor and Training and the sponsors on this legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce

National Federation of Independent Business

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

Rhode Island Business Group on Health

Rhode Island Hospitality Association

Rhode Island Manufacturers Association

Rhode Island Marine Trade Association

Rhode Island Staffing Association

Small Business Economic Summit Regulations Committee

Small Business Economic Summit Tax and Budget Committee

cc. House Labor Committee members