



**Champion Advocacy
Associates**

April 9, 2025

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

Dear Chairman Corvese and Committee Members,

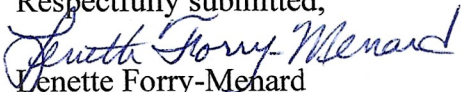
The Northern RI Chamber of Commerce (NRICC) represents businesses in the communities of Burrillville, Central Falls, Cumberland, Foster, Glocester, Johnston, Lincoln, North Providence, North Smithfield, Pawtucket, Scituate, Smithfield and Woonsocket. The Chamber opposes the passage of H.5448, An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations – Employment Security – General Provisions.

This bill eliminates the sunset provision on an unemployment benefit that was created during the COVID 19 pandemic. In 2021, the legislature passed legislation allowing individuals to continue to collect unemployment benefits while partially employed. It was intended to act as an incentive to get people back to work to some extent at a time when some were afraid to return due to health concerns. The pandemic is now over and businesses are actively searching for full-time employees. While well-meaning, this bill actually provides a disincentive to return to full-time work and raises the cost of unemployment insurance benefits.

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Rhode Island ranks 42 in unemployment insurance rates in the country (50 being the highest), and we rank highest in the New England states. Passage of H.5448 turns a temporary benefit into a permanent benefit, further exasperating the problem.

We ask the committee to take no action on H.5448.

Respectfully submitted,


Lenette Forry-Mehard
Legislative Lobbyist

10 Lincoln Drive, North Smithfield RI 02896

tel. (401) 374-0456

fax (401) 597-5977

lenetteforry@gmail.com