



SEIUHealthcare®
United for Quality Care

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Testimony in Support of H-6066 – Strengthening Paid Family and Medical Leave

Chair Corvese and Honorable Members of the House Labor Committee,

On behalf of SEIU 1199NE, which represents 7,000 healthcare and service workers across Rhode Island, we write in strong support of H-6066, legislation to strengthen the state’s Temporary Caregiver Insurance (TCI) and Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) programs.

Our members work hard caring for others—whether in nursing homes, group homes, or in people’s homes. But they are often unable to care for themselves or their families because Rhode Island’s paid family and medical leave program doesn’t replace enough of their income. At just 60%, Rhode Island has the lowest wage replacement rate in the country.

Here’s what that looks like in real life. Take a homecare worker earning **\$16 an hour**. At 60% wage replacement, their TCI benefit would be **just \$384 per week**. That’s not enough to cover rent, utilities, groceries, and diapers. Many of our members simply can’t afford to take time off—even when they need to recover from childbirth or care for a seriously ill parent.

For example, a new mother recovering from childbirth and caring for her newborn may qualify for both TDI and TCI. But unless she can survive a 40% pay cut, she may have no choice but to return to work too soon—putting her own health and her baby’s at risk. That’s not a real choice. That’s a policy failure.

H-6066 takes real steps to fix this. It increases the wage replacement rate, updates the definition of “family” to reflect the reality of caregiving today, and allows self-employed workers to buy into the program. These changes would make Rhode Island’s paid leave program more accessible and equitable—especially for low-wage workers like those we represent.

We urge the committee to support H-6066 and make paid leave a real option for the working people who need it most.

Respectfully,

Alex Moore
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