



To: House Committee on Labor
From: Erich Haslehurst, National Education Association Rhode Island
Date: April 9, 2025
Re: Support of H-6066 Temporary Caregiver Insurance

Dear Chairman Corvese and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the National Education Association Rhode Island and our 12,000 members, we strongly support House Bill 6066, introduced by Representative Giraldo.

Last year we passed into law an increase of temporary caregiver insurance from 6 weeks to 12 weeks, which put Rhode Island on even footing with our neighbors in Massachusetts and Connecticut. It also increased the weekly dependent's allowance from \$10 to \$20 or 7% of the benefit rate – whichever is greater. The expansion of this program will have no cost to the state as it is entirely funded with payroll deductions. However, we did not include the expansion of who qualifies for the insurance by including siblings, grandchildren, and the care recipient.

Passing this H6066 into law is good for families, it is good for new parents who are caring for a newborn, it is good for those who are caring for their aging parents and grandparents, and it is good for those who need to care for loved ones who have had an emergency. This bill allows people the time they need to care for their families and loved ones without fear of losing their wages or having to choose between going to work and staying home to give that care. Passing this bill is also good for employers. When employees know that they will be able to give the care they need to their families when they need it the most it can result in better work performance and happier employees, generally.

For these reasons we urge you to pass this bill.

Erich Haslehurst