



April 9, 2025

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

Re: H.6066, An Act Relating to Labor Relations – Temporary Disability Insurance – General Provisions

Dear Chairman Corvese,

The undersigned members of the Rhode Island Business Coalition oppose H.6066 - An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations – Temporary Disability Insurance.

H.6066 proposes the following changes to the TDI/TCI program:

- Allows self-employed individuals to opt in. Those who choose to opt in become eligible to collect benefits after contributing to the program for twelve months.
- Increases the taxable wage base to equal the Social Security contribution wage base starting calendar year 2026. In 2025, that wage base is \$176,100. The current taxable wage base for TDI/TCI is \$89,200.
- Expands the eligibility to receive time off to include caring for a sibling, grandchild, and care recipient, which is broadly defined to include anyone for whom an employee is providing or arranging care.
- Raises the weekly wage replacement for all workers receiving benefits to 85% of the individual's weekly wage.

The Coalition is concerned about potential costs to the TDI/TCI system. Expanding the eligibility requirements to cover self-employed individuals means increased exposure for the program. The legislation does increase the contribution level for employees. The Coalition is concerned that in the event employees express opposition to the increased tax that the General Assembly will then look to the business community to fund the program via a tax or fee increase.

Employers in Rhode Island, like many other states continue to struggle with a shortage of available workers, increased costs of materials and utilities as well as continued market disruptions. While we empathize with individuals who are facing family challenges, we cannot forget that allowing individuals to leave the workplace results in challenges for co-workers, businesses, and the customers they serve.

For these reasons, we request that you take no further action on this legislation.

Sincerely,

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

East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce
National Federation of Independent Business
Rhode Island Bankers Association
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