



Testimony in Support of H-8311 Relating to Employee Protection

House Committee on Labor

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The Economic Progress Institute **supports Representative Dawson’s bill H-8311 to guarantee Rhode Island workers a basic level of safety** by directing employers to take certain actions to protect their employees who are exposed to extreme hot and cold temperatures.

Whether their employees work outdoors or indoors, in an office or in a warehouse or driving a vehicle, employers ought to be responsible for **ensuring that their employees have access to adequate equipment and breaks to protect them from the extremes of heat or cold.**

We also applaud that the proposed legislation identifies as an unlawful employment practice the failure to provide adequate protection.

Rhode Islanders deserve to work under conditions that do not needlessly jeopardize their health and well-being, and employers should have an obligation to provide all relevant safety measures. We urge the members of the committee to advance this legislation to the House floor.