

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

Committees: Vice Chair Public Service Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Municipalities and Regional Government Post Audit and Oversight

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June 7, 2021

Hon. Josh Cutler, House Chair Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development State House, Room 167 Boston, MA, 02133

Hon. Patricia D. Jehlen, Senate Chair Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development State House, Room # Boston, MA 02133

Re: H2015 An Act Relative to Employee Definition Harmonization

Dear Chair Cutler & Chair Jehlen.

I write to you today in support of H.2015, which speaks to the ongoing issue of employee misclassification as independent contractors. The definitions of employee are slightly different for wage and hour law and for unemployment law. This bill proposes to modify the definition of employee in the unemployment law to adopt the definition from the wage and hour laws.

The late Justice Gants commented in decisions how confusing it was for businesses that there were different definitions for different purposes. This bill would address this concern.

Last term, this committee favorably reported the bill and I hope it will do so again. If you have any questions about the bill, please feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Jay Livingstone State Representative

8th Suffolk District