The Rhode Island legislature is currently considering the Healthy and Safe Families and Workplaces Act, HB 5413. This commonsense step would help family caregivers succeed on the job and in caring for their loved ones by requiring employers to provide a minimum level of earned, paid leave to all employees that they can use to care for a loved one. AARP recently surveyed Rhode Island registered voters age 45-plus about this issue.

Here's what we learned:

**Register voters support requiring employers to provide a minimum level of earned, paid leave to all employees.**

84% Support

This support is strong across party lines.

Republican: 70%
Democrat: 92%
Independent: 82%

**Family Caregivers in Rhode Island Juggle Full- or Part-Time Jobs**

Across Rhode Island, family caregivers help parents and spouses so they can live independently at home.

The majority of current Rhode Island family caregivers work.

66%

If you’re not a caregiver now and weren’t one in the past, you’ll likely be one in the future:

Current or former caregivers: 58%
Likely caregivers in the future: 50%

**These family caregivers take on huge responsibilities that can be overwhelming, stressful and exhausting, like complex medical tasks and medication management.**

The majority of family caregivers who work adjust their schedules because of caregiving responsibilities:

Modify their work schedules, going in late, leaving early, or taking time off: 68%
Take a leave of absence from their job: 26%
Go from working full-time to part-time: 19%
Leave their jobs entirely: 23%

For family caregivers who change their work schedules, they do so often:

Weekly: 33%
Monthly: 47%

A labor of love to be sure, family caregiving is a big job.

69% Feel emotionally stressed
66% Feel stressed about balancing work and family
58% Find it difficult to get enough rest

AARP urges the Rhode Island Legislature to support family caregivers and pass the Healthy and Safe Families and Workplaces Act, HB 5413.

Source: March 2017 Survey of 1,000 Rhode Island Registered Voters Age age 45-plus. Margin of sampling error ±3.1%