



**Testimony in Support of Bill Increasing the Penalties for Wage Theft and
Employee Misclassification: SB195
Senate Committee on Labor
February 24, 2021**

The Economic Progress Institute supports SB195 which, if enacted, would increase the penalties for wage theft and employee misclassification. The current penalties in Rhode Island statute are too low to discourage employers from engaging in wage theft or misclassifying their employees to avoid providing adequate pay and benefits. By increasing the financial penalties and including the threat of jail time, employers will be more motivated to treat their employees fairly.