

Chris O'Brien

From: Jason Beaumier <jwbeaumier@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 9:11 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: House Bill 5715

Good day,

I am writing in opposition to House Bill 5715.

This will cause an unnecessary hardship on families and business that are already struggling to recover from the pandemic. Given the small size of RI, citizens can easily just go to MA, CT, or even NH to avoid the tax, so even if it were to go through the intentions wouldn't work, as the expected revenue generated would not be achieved and business would close due to the loss in revenue.

There are other ways to benefit SNAP participants than through such as increasing benefits and/or lowering income limits, simplification of application process, and easier access to benefits. All of these would have permanent effects, and wouldn't be tied to a arbitrary tax revenue that can and will fluctuate as well as if the SNAP recipient would even take advantage of this.

Look at what happened in Philadelphia when they did this, projected revenues weren't achieved and layoffs occurred to local Pepsi and Coke workers.

Finally, if you're going to tax "sugary" drinks, why not fast food? Potato chips? Pizza? Why signal out "sugary" drinks? There is no clear logic or rationale for it.

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