



David Dadekian  
Eat Drink RI LLC  
1061 Fish Hill Road  
Coventry, RI 02816

### **Testimony in support of H 7060**

January 24, 2022

Honorable members of the House Corporations Committee:

I am the founder and president of Eat Drink RI, one of the top media, marketing and event production companies in the region for all things culinary. As an entrepreneur and resident of Rhode Island who wants to see our state's food and drink economy survive and expand to attract new business, I am **in favor of passage of H 7060** with two requested amendments.

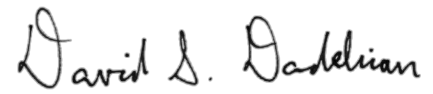
Happy Hour drink specials are revenue generators for bars and restaurants in 42 other states and would be a boon to business here, so I applaud this legislation to make Happy Hours possible.

H 7060 adds a provision to the existing law that allows for "drink specials served as part of a larger transaction that includes a meal" and excludes snacks "including, but not limited to, pretzels, popcorn, chips, or similar food" as not meeting the definition of a meal. I would ask that the legislation is amended by striking "includes a meal" and adding "includes one or more items ordered from a licensee's menu" while keeping the exclusion of snacks. Meal is a very vague term and some items like a salad or chicken wings could serve as a meal to a person.

Secondly, H 7060 does not remove the ability for licensees to advertise or promote their specials. In this day of social media posts and subscriber-only newsletters, to not allow venues to let their followers, their opted-in clientele, know about a drink special seems counter-intuitive to how people interact and enjoy their favorite bars and restaurants. I ask that the legislation be amended to remove section (4)(b)(1) or at least allow for social media and other online promotions.

Respectfully, I urge you to pass H 7060 forward to the full House in this session with these two requested amendments. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David S. Dadekian". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'D'.

David Dadekian