

March 13, 2025

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.  
Chairman – House Committee on Corporations  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02906

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As President of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), Local 328, I am writing in support of both House bills 5552 and 5553. Both pieces of legislation are good for the citizens of state and will go a long way in helping control the rising costs of groceries for consumers.

H. 5552, championed by Lieutenant Governor Matos and sponsored by Representative Diaz allows local enforcement of the Robinson-Patman Act by providing the Rhode Island Attorney General with the ability of charging fines by entities who discriminate by charging different prices to competing buyers for the same product. The bill would help Rhode Island small businesses who sell groceries in areas of the state where there is a lack of food retailers. These "food deserts" are usually in economically distressed areas and make it harder for residents to access affordable and a variety of food.

H. 5553, sponsored on behalf of Lieutenant Governor Matos by Representative Noret, requires grocery stores to offer the same discounts to store customers as they do to others who may receive coupons through "online" incentives or club membership. The bill would help many people including our senior citizens who may not have access to or ability for use of various on-line platforms.

UFCW -Local 328 is the largest private sector union in Rhode Island representing over 7,000 workers in the food retail industry at supermarkets like Stop & Shop and Brigido's Markets throughout the state.

I appreciate the work that you and your committee do on behalf of Rhode Island. Thank you for consideration to our support of these two bills.

Sincerely,



Timothy Melia  
President

**United Food & Commercial Workers Union, Local 328**

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