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Testimony of

Christopher Carlozzi, NFIB State Director
In Opposition to House Bill No. 5553,
Relating to Commercial Law – Unfair Sales Practices
Before the House Committee on Corporations
March 13, 2025

Chairman Solomon and Members of the House Committee on Corporations:

My name is Christopher Carlozzi. I am the Rhode Island State Director for NFIB. A non-profit, non-partisan organization, NFIB is the nation's and our state's largest small business advocacy group. In Rhode Island, NFIB represents hundreds of small and independent business owners involved in all types of industry, including manufacturing, retail, wholesale, service, and agriculture. The average NFIB member has five employees and annual gross revenues of about \$450,000. NFIB represents the small Main Street business owners from throughout Rhode Island. On behalf of those small and independent business employers, I urge you to oppose House Bill No. 5553 regarding digital coupons.

As written, this legislation may have unintended consequences that will impact many of the state's smaller businesses. House Bill No. 5553 means a local grocery store, restaurant, or hardware store that may offer coupons on their social media or email distribution list must have printed copies available or face severe financial penalties. This will simply result in those smaller businesses opting not offer the discount at all, with owners not wanting to risk a hefty fine for violations. The unintended results will only end up hurting Rhode Island consumers currently facing extreme inflation at a time when every penny counts.

For these reasons we ask that Committee members reject House Bill No. 5553. This would just be another mandate on small businesses simply trying to offer a discount to consumers in an affordable way. Thank you.