



March 12, 2025

The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr. Chair
House Corporations Committee
Rhode Island House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: BILL NUMBER H-5553 – AN ACT RELATING TO COMMERCIAL LAW -- GENERAL REGULATORY PROVISIONS -- UNFAIR SALES PRACTICES

Chair Solomon and Honorable Committee Members,

On behalf of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 5553, which would ensure that stores offering food product discounts via digital coupons provide the same discounts to in-store customers through alternative methods. This act is a crucial step toward ensuring that all Rhode Island consumers have equal access to price reductions, regardless of their ability to utilize digital devices.

House Bill 5553 addresses a significant gap in the current retail landscape, where consumers who may not have access to or familiarity with personal computing devices are unable to take advantage of the same discounts as those who can use digital coupons. By mandating alternative methods, such as paper coupons or electronic kiosks, be made available in stores, this bill promotes fairness and ensures that all Rhode Islanders, regardless of their technological access, can benefit from the discounts offered by retailers.

The League firmly believes that the passage of this bill will promote greater equity and consumer choice, supporting local shoppers and ensuring that all communities in Rhode Island, regardless of socioeconomic background, have equal access to savings. This is an important step in creating a more inclusive and accessible shopping experience for all Rhode Island residents.

We respectfully urge the committee support to pass House Bill 5553, which will make a tangible difference for families and individuals across our state.

We believe House Bill 5553 will positively impact municipalities and residents alike and appreciate you taking the time to consider our perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Randy R. Rossi", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House Corporations Committee