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Testimony of

Christopher Carlozzi, State Director, National Federation of Independent Business  
House Bill No. 7065  
Relating to Health and Safety – Truth in Food Disclosure Law  
Before the House Committee on Corporations  
January 20, 2026

Chairman Solomon and Members of the House Committee on Corporations:

My name is Christopher Carlozzi. I am the Rhode Island Director of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB). A non-profit, non-partisan organization, NFIB is the nation's and Rhode Island'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. In short, NFIB represents the small Main Street business owners from across the state. On behalf of those small and independent business employers in Rhode Island, I want to share our concerns with House Bill No. 7065.

This proposal holds Rhode Island retailers and restaurants accountable for reducing the sugar content in all liquid beverages. By 2030, the bill somehow requires these retailers who sell liquid beverages to reduce the sugar content by half of 2026 levels. However, this may not be feasible if manufacturers fail to produce products that follow the state's stringent sugar reduction guidelines.

The end result of this proposal will be shortages of liquid beverages like milk, juice, beer, wine, hard alcohol, coffee, frozen lemonade, and even baby formula. All of these products contain sugar and would be forced to meet the new strict sugar reduction standards outlined in this bill. Consumers in Rhode Island would either be forced to stop consuming these products or travel to other states to make their purchases. This will mean less business for Rhode Island convenience stores, coffee shops, package stores, grocery stores and restaurants.

NFIB strongly urges the committee to reject House Bill No 7065 that will make Rhode Island an outlier when it comes to selling legal beverages with sugar.