



State of Rhode Island
Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos

March 3, 2026

The Honorable Joseph Solomon, Jr.
Chair, House Committee on Corporations
House Lounge, Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H 7514 & H 7719 -- 2026

Dear Chairman Solomon,

Thank you for the opportunity to address your committee in support of H 7514 & 7719, which were introduced at my request as part of my Fair Price Grocery Agenda.

The price of groceries is too high. Over 1 in 3 Rhode Island households have reported being food insecure, local pantries are running out of supplies, and SNAP benefits are under attack by the federal government.

Why are prices so high? The data is clear. Both the Federal Reserve of Kansas City and the Federal Trade Commission have released studies that show that leaps in inflation are caused by the biggest corporations using their size to shake down consumers, competitors, and our communities. While giant national chains have thrived, our families and our independent grocery stores are just scraping by.

That's why my office and I have assembled a Fair Price Grocery Agenda. The Fair Price Grocery Agenda is a series of bills that address these unchecked practices by giant grocers. These are urgent pieces of legislation that protect consumers, empower local business, and revive competition in our markets.

Before you tonight are two of those bills:

- H 7514, sponsored by Rep. Grace Diaz, which would protect independent grocery from anti-competitive coercive tactics by superstores. Modeled after the federal Robinson-Patman Act, this bill would help independent stores identify when they're being charged more for the same quantity and quality of goods by suppliers. Under this act, both independent stores and the Attorney General would have the ability to pursue damages caused by national superstores coercing suppliers into withholding discounts from those superstores' competitors.
- H 7719, sponsored by Rep. Thomas Noret, which ensures that all Rhode Islanders have access to digital coupons by requiring stores to offer in-store ways to get the same discount. This is a common-sense bill that protects the 22% of seniors and 18% of people making under \$30,000 per

year who don't have a smartphone. We're proud to offer stores wide leeway in how they design these alternatives, but we must ensure that our most vulnerable populations have equal access.

None of these alone are a silver bullet to fix grocery prices, but every dollar matters for young families, senior citizens, and every Rhode Islander who needs a break. We need to take action and pass these bills to give those Rhode Islanders fair grocery prices. I urge you to recommend passage of these three bills to your colleagues in the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sabina Matos". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Sabina Matos

Lieutenant Governor of Rhode Island