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## Testimony of

Christopher Carlozzi, NFIB State Director

In Support of House Bill Nos. 8498

An Act Relating to Health and Safety – Responsible Recycling, Reuse and Disposal of Mattresses

In Support of House Bill Nos. 8499

An Act Relating to Health and Safety – Proper Management of Unused Paint

Before the House Committee on Corporations

May 5, 2026

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 support House Bill Nos. 8498 and 8499, relating to stewardship programs.

Stewardship policies for legal products like paint and mattresses add costs for small businesses and their customers. These pieces of legislation will repeal the state's existing stewardship programs that create new fees for the disposal of products.

Despite being called a PaintCare "fee" this charge instead serves as a tax that singles out consumption of a single legal product and mandates that consumers of that product pay for its disposal at the point of purchase. The assessment very much resembles, feels like and acts like an additional sales tax to the consumer. Additionally, the state's mattress recycling fee also makes the state less affordable for consumers. This fee, that has increased 10% to \$22.50 per mattress adds to the cost of mattress disposal for Rhode Islanders.

I strongly urge this Committee to support House Bill Nos. 8498 and 8499, repealing various product stewardship programs making it more expensive to buy and dispose of legal products. Thank you.