



April 23, 2025

The Honorable Susan Donovan  
Chair, House Committee on Health and Human Services  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Madame Chair,

On behalf of the Rhode Island Hospitality Association (RIHA), I write in regard to H 6035 to express opposition to the mandates imposed by the bill on restaurant offerings of children's menus.

RIHA is aligned with the bill's goal of promoting healthier options on kids' menus, and the standards presented in the bill are similar to the National Restaurant Association's Kids LiveWell (KLW) program, which empowers families to build healthy lifestyles while dining out **as a voluntary program**.

Restaurants join the KLW program, making it easy for restaurants to offer and promote better-for-you meals to parents and kids. This free program requires restaurants to: offer two meals and two sides that meet strict KLW nutrition criteria with a focus on increasing the consumption of fruits and vegetables, lean proteins, and low-fat dairy while limiting added sugars and sodium; and promote default beverages like water, milk, and juice.

As a mandate, the bill unnecessarily intervenes into the operations of restaurants, dictating what they can and cannot serve on their menus. It infringes upon the freedom of businesses to offer the food items they deem appropriate for their target audience. Implementing these strict standards could also disproportionately affect small, independent restaurants that may struggle to afford the costs associated with reformulating their children's menus. Compliance with these regulations may require costly menu changes, ingredient sourcing, and staff training, potentially leading to financial strain.

Given the success with the KLW program, we know voluntary approaches work best to inspire restaurants to create meals and sides that kids like and improve the food landscape. We respectfully urge your opposition to the mandates contained in H 6035. Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,

Farouk Rajab  
President/CEO



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[www.RIHospitality.org](http://www.RIHospitality.org)