



**Member Focused; Results Driven**

March 10, 2026

**Support**

Representative Carol Hagan McEntee  
Chair; House Judiciary Committee  
The State House  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: House Bill 8044: Gift Card Fraud**

Dear Chair McEntee:

My name is Scott Bromberg and I am the President & CEO of the Rhode Island Food Dealers Association, a trade association established in 1909 to serve the needs of the food industry in the State of Rhode Island. Our membership includes chain and independent grocery retailers, wholesalers, suppliers, distributors, food manufacturers, brokers, and other organizations affiliated with the food industry in our state. As an industry, we are among the state's largest employers and revenue generators.

Gift card fraud is an increasingly sophisticated threat to unsuspecting Rhode Island retailers and consumers, both young and old. Currently, people who tamper with or inactivate gift cards or steal redemption information often face minimal consequences because the cards technically have no "value" until purchased. Increasing the penalty of gift card fraud will bring Rhode Island in line with the digital reality of modern retail crime. By subjecting these offenses to harsher penalties, House Bill 8044 provides Rhode Island law enforcement and prosecutors with the necessary tools to hold violators accountable. This will ensure that when a Rhode Islander buys a gift card, the value they paid for is legally protected.

In summary, Rhode Island's food industry is one of the largest – and steadiest – employers and revenue generators in the state. House Bill 8044 would have a positive impact on our member stores, both large and small, and would make Rhode Island one of the leaders in this area. We ask you to recognize their position when considering House Bill 8044.

Thank you for allowing our industry to weigh in on this bill.

Sincerely,



Scott Bromberg  
President & CEO  
RI Food Dealers Association

CC: Hon. K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker  
Rhode Island House of Representatives

Hon. Christopher R Blazejewski, Majority Leader  
Rhode Island House of Representatives

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