

March 27, 2024

The Honorable Arthur J. Corvese  
Chairman, House Committee on Labor  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**Re:     *Opposition to H 7531***

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal of increasing tipped wages. While I understand the importance of fair compensation for all workers, including those in the service industry, I believe that implementing such a measure would have detrimental effects on both businesses and employees.

First and foremost, increasing tipped wages would place a significant financial burden on businesses, particularly small establishments already operating on narrow profit margins. The additional payroll costs could force many businesses to make difficult decisions, such as reducing employee hours, cutting jobs, or even closing their doors altogether. As a result, not only would this proposal fail to benefit workers, but it could also exacerbate unemployment and economic hardship in our communities.

Furthermore, tipping has long served as an incentive for exceptional service, encouraging employees to go above and beyond to satisfy customers. By mandating higher base wages, we risk removing this incentive and potentially diminishing the quality of service provided. In an industry where customer satisfaction is paramount, it is essential to preserve the flexibility and motivation that tipping provides.

Moreover, increasing tipped wages could lead to higher prices for consumers as businesses seek to offset their rising labor costs. This could have a disproportionate impact on lower-income individuals and families who rely on affordable dining options. In essence, while the intention behind raising tipped wages may be noble, the unintended consequences could be far-reaching and detrimental to all parties involved.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider the proposal of increasing tipped wages and instead focus on solutions that support both workers and businesses without jeopardizing the stability of our economy. Collaborative efforts between stakeholders, such as providing additional training opportunities or advocating for policies that promote economic growth, can better address the underlying issues facing the service industry.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this matter. I am hopeful that together, we can find equitable solutions that benefit everyone involved. Sincerely,

Christina Bullock  
FOH Manager  
Chomp Kitchen & Drinks  
Warren / Providence / Catering  
<http://getchomp.co/>