



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***

Dear Chair and House Committee on Labor,

As a hospitality stakeholder for the past 25 years, I am in opposition to this bill. This bill will not enrich the lives of our tipped employees. But most likely reduce their overall earnings.

As a former server and Bartender before ownership of my own venues, I know the value of the current way in which our servers and bartenders make a living.

The associated cost to the stakeholder will add such a financial burden that we will be forced to make decisions that will not be in the best interest of our tipped employees. Covid financial policies placed on our industry are not gone.

I, as others are currently still paying on PPP loans and back rent to our landlords, and the investment in my venue is still not where it should be, so I asked that you please do not make this change. Our employees make more now than they ever will if this system is ended.

I apologize for being unable to speak in person before you, as I have done several times in the past concerning our hospitality industry.

I thank you for all the time you spend listening to all of us, your fellow Rhode Islanders, and I hope you will give us and our staff the consideration to do what we know best for our industry.

Please do not pass H – 7531 and give our Tip employees now, and in the future the chance to build their financial future, as so many of us have done in the past.

Sincerely,  
Anthony Santurri  
Co owner Freeplay bar arcade and  
Colosseum Nightclub  
Providence RI 02903