

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*

Chairman Corvese, I am writing to ask that you please vote against HB 7531 to eliminate Rhode Island's tip credit.

As a waitress I currently make a minimal hourly wage. I like earning tips and working in this industry because I can maximize my earning potential through excellent customer service and earn more than minimum wage. I can also make more money than jobs in other sectors and I have flexible work hours in this industry.

Being able to stay in this business and utilize these skills to my advantage is highly beneficial not only for personal career growth, but more importantly, to provide a warm hospitable experience for customers. Without a tip incentive, the quality of this experience goes down tremendously and will greatly hinder my own earning potential, as well as the hospitality industry's profitability.

In Rhode Island, it is really important that we don't make changes to this and assure we keep this top notch experience for customers through our motivation to earn more with each interaction. If we no longer earn tips, this forces people to find additional jobs and have less time and energy to focus on this industry, and in this economy we know that is not easy. If this passes, not only will this affect many people's employment, but restaurants across the state may end up with no choice but to shut their doors as they need to find the money to assure staff has a livable income. We need to keep this experience as is, not only for locals but the many people across the country that love to visit Rhode Island for its lovely restaurants.

It would mean so much to myself and others in this industry across the state if we are still able to earn tips through our hard work, and dedication to customer experiences. Please do not pass this legislation as it will reap horrible consequences to many hard-working individuals and businesses.

Sincerely,

Courtney Curry