

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 and Members of the House Labor Committee,

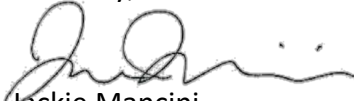
I am writing on behalf of Mancini Beverage, a beverage wholesaler located in West Greenwich. On behalf of my hospitality customers, I would like to express my opposition to H 5731, which would eliminate the tipped minimum wage.

Mancini Beverage services more than 1,500 bars and restaurants in Rhode Island, most of which are independently owned and operated by local Rhode Islanders. These retailers are incredibly mixed in terms of size, economics and ownership, and they represent the extensive diversity that exists in our State. The industry is vibrant, boasting award-winning chefs and mixologists that attract regionally, as well as neighborhood options to meet any preference.

By eliminating the tip credit, retailers will need to drastically alter business models so that they can absorb additional costs related to payroll adjustments and process changes. The effect on the industry may be fewer independent bars and restaurants, fewer industry jobs, and more limited choice for consumers.

I respectfully ask that you oppose H 7531. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jackie Mancini', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jackie Mancini  
SVP, Mancini Beverage