

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,

My name is Katie Ferraro and I am a waitress for T's restaurant group at the Narragansett location. I have been with T's for just shy of 12 years. I started with the company at 20 years old, I worked 7 days a week, open to close, making money was all I lived for. In the chaos of the restaurant business I managed to find my husband, who was a kitchen manager at the time, we shared the long days in a tourist saturated town counting down the seconds until close. He proposed after a long Sunday brunch shift, and the rest was history. Fast forward 12 years, 4 kids later, just about everything in our lives had changed, besides the fact that I remained waiting tables at the same restaurant where it all began.

I do love my job, I love the girls I work with, I love the company I work for, but the only reason I do this job is for the money. Waiting tables isn't for the weak, especially at a restaurant where you're dealing with people before coffee most of the time. Waiting tables is ONLY worth it because the money is great. As a waitress we think about walking out on our shift about 43 times an hour. But at the end of our shift when we count our cash we show up to that next shift because the money makes it all worth it.

If you take that away waitresses will find a different hourly job that's much less work for the same pay. And in an industry that's already hurt for help, taking away tips will destroy the restaurant business for sure. As a mother of 4 small children I need my job, I need my tips, it's what puts food on the table for my family. Please consider keeping tips in Rhode Island. Thank you for your time.

Katie Ferraro