

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 to ask that you please vote against HB 7531 to eliminate Rhode Island's tip credit.

As a restaurant server, I am currently making between \$40-\$60 per hour in my current position.

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.

Should this bill come to pass, it would have catastrophic consequences to not only my income and ability to be able to support my family, but would also have far reaching negative effects on many sectors of business in my community which has relied on the hospitality and the food and beverage industry for decades. I can't honestly imagine how myself or my colleagues would be able to move forward and continue to keep up with today's cost of living and provide the basic necessities (mortgage and/or rent, groceries, utilities, automobile payments and upkeep, student loan payments, etc.) for our families without the income bracket that is currently able to be maintained through the tip credit.

Thank you for your consideration. Please DO NOT pass this legislation.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Windley