

**G R E A T E R
P R O V I D E N C E
C H A M B E R O F
C O M M E R C E**

February 5, 2026

Chairman Arthur J. Corvese
House Labor Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Corvese and Members of the Committee:

I am writing today to share the opposition of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce to H. 7290, "An Act Relating To Commercial Law--General Regulatory Provisions -- Grocery Stores." This bill seeks to regulate the number of self-checkouts in "grocery" stores.

This bill would limit the number of self-checkouts to 8; require "grocery stores" to have a staffed check-out for every two self-checkouts in use; and would limit the duties of the employee overseeing the self-checkouts. This bill is a gross overreach into private enterprise and would only create long lines and higher prices on groceries.

Furthermore, as "grocery stores" are defined, the bill would have an impact on a broader group of stores including pharmacies and other kinds of retailers.

With the high price of groceries, staffing shortages, inflation, and stores struggling to stay open in low-income neighborhoods, it makes little sense to add these existing problems with this proposal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Laurie White

Laurie White
President and CEO
Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce