

CLEMENTS' MARKETPLACE

February 5, 2026

Hon. Arthur J. Corvese, Chair
House Labor Committee
The State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Opposition to House Bill 7290

Dear Members of the House Labor Committee,

Good morning,

I am writing to respectfully express my opposition to House Bill 7290, the Restrictions on Self-Service Checkout Stations Act, scheduled for hearing on February 5, 2026.

I represent a grocery business operating in Rhode Island and strongly believe this bill sets a concerning and unnecessary precedent. While not every grocery store utilizes self-checkout, the option to deploy this technology is a business decision that should remain with individual operators, based on store size, customer needs, labor availability, and operational efficiency.

House Bill 7290 would allow legislation to dictate how, when, and where private businesses deploy their staff. This level of operational control goes well beyond reasonable labor standards and into direct micromanagement of day-to-day business decisions. Such mandates reduce flexibility, hinder innovation, and ultimately make it harder for businesses to adapt to changing consumer expectations and workforce realities.

Self-checkout is not a replacement for employees. In many cases, it allows stores to reallocate staff to customer-facing roles, improve service levels, and better manage labor shortages that continue to affect our industry. A one-size-fits-all restriction fails to recognize the diversity of grocery operations across the state and may unintentionally increase costs, reduce service options for customers, and strain already tight labor models.

The grocery industry is highly competitive and operates on thin margins. Decisions around staffing models and technology adoption must remain responsive to real-world conditions, not statutory caps. Rhode Island businesses need flexibility to remain viable, invest in their workforce, and continue serving their communities effectively.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to oppose House Bill 7290.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,
Michael Leverett
Store Manager, Clements' Marketplace