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## Testimony of

Christopher Carlozzi, State Director, National Federation of Independent Business  
In Opposition to House Bill No. 7366  
Relating to Food and Drugs – Sanitation in Food Establishments  
Before the House Committee on Labor  
March 5, 2026

Chairman Corvese and Members of the House Committee on Labor:

My name is Christopher Carlozzi. I am the Rhode Island State Director of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB). A non-profit, non-partisan organization, NFIB is the nation's and Rhode Island's largest small business advocacy group. In Rhode Island, NFIB represents hundreds of small and independent business owners involved in all types of industry, including manufacturing, retail, wholesale, service, and agriculture. The average NFIB member has five employees and annual gross revenues of about \$450,000. In short, NFIB represents the small Main Street business owners from across the state. On behalf of those small and independent business employers in Rhode Island, I have concerns with House Bill No. 7366 as drafted.

This bill appears to apply to all food service establishments, even those smaller restaurants that do not traditionally utilize hospitality workforce training grants. Under this law, many Main Street restaurants and cafes, like quick serve sandwich shops, bars, pizzerias, and cafes would be subjected to the \$50 fee that fund grant programs they may never utilize. Small business restaurants already operate on razor thin margins and are currently combating the rising cost of food, labor, energy, rent, and other expenses. On top of existing licenses and fees, this would be an additional charge for operating a food service business in Rhode Island. To make this bill more equitable, I ask that you amend it to include an exemption for smaller businesses that do not utilize workforce training grants.

I urge you to reject House Bill No. 7366 as written and ask that you consider including an exemption for smaller businesses with limited numbers of employees. Thank you.