

March 5, 2026

The Honorable Arthur Corvese  
Chair, House Labor Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

***Re: Support of H 7366***

Chairman Corvese and Members of the House Labor Committee,

Please accept this written testimony in support of House Bill 7366 which would add an additional fee of \$50.00 per year to food service establishments to be used to provide hospitality industry workforce training grants including, but not limited to, certified food and alcohol safety training programs.

According to 216-RICR-50-10-2, the rules and regulations for certification of food safety managers are established for the purpose of protecting Rhode Island consumers from foodborne illness. Food service establishments where time temperature control for safe food is prepared are required to employ at least one full-time, on-site manager who is at least eighteen years of age and is certified in food safety. This requirement increases to two certified managers if the establishment employs more than ten full-time kitchen employees.

To earn this certification, employees must be trained by an approved certification training institution/agency, and the instructor must meet specific qualifications including a minimum of two years' experience teaching or consulting on food related issues, employment in the food industry, or employment with a food regulatory agency. Additionally, instructors must be currently certified in food safety through a nationally accredited food safety program, have earned a final score of 90% or higher on the national examination, and complete hours of certification training every three years.

Similar to the food safety training regulations, any employee that serves alcohol (servers/bartenders), valet staff, and supervisors or managers of these job categories, are required to be trained in responsible alcohol service from a certified program approved by the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation. This training is required to cover the physiological effects of alcohol, it's association with social problems, legal requirements and liability, de-escalation, and techniques for checking identification and refusing service.

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