



David Dadekian
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Testimony in support of H 7209

February 8, 2022

Members of the House Committee on Small Business:


I am the founder and president of Eat Drink RI, one of the top media, marketing and event production companies in the region for all things culinary. As an entrepreneur and resident of Rhode Island who wants to see our state's food and drink economy survive and expand to attract new business, I am strongly **in favor of passage of H 7209** with one requested amendment.

Without a doubt, the ability for our locally owned and operated restaurants, bars (serving food) and pubs to sell beer, wine and cocktails for take-out during the past two years has been a huge boon and truly a lifesaving opportunity. It has proven to be safe, secure and legal through oversight from the Department of Business Regulation. Plus, it's shown to be extremely convenient and just plain enjoyed by the public. There has been zero impact upon retail stores and local producers, and in many cases, the ability to make these sales from restaurants has expanded store sales for more products that have been curated by consumers' favorite spots.

The one requested amendment that could make the law safer and show stronger support for our Class B license holders would be allowing delivery in addition to pick-up. Delivery services already exist that handle liquor. While there have been no issues with take-out liquor over these past two years, delivery would add one more layer of safety and security in getting product from a restaurant or bar to the consumer. In addition, delivery has become a crucial financial aid for take-out orders and limiting this law to pick-up only would cut that aid.

I am hopeful to see these sales permanently codified into law, eliminating another Rhode Island liquor law that has existed past its expiration date. Respectfully, I urge you to pass H 7209 forward to the full House in this session with this one requested amendment. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David S. Dadekian". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' at the beginning.

David Dadekian