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Testimony of  
Christopher Carlozzi, NFIB State Director  
In Opposition to House Bill No. 5328  
An Act Relating to Health and Safety – Food Allergy Awareness in Food Service Establishments  
Before the House Committee on Small Business  
February 8, 2023

Chairwoman McEntee and Members of the House Committee on Small Business:

My name is Christopher Carlozzi. I am the Rhode Island State Director for NFIB. A non-profit, non-partisan organization, NFIB is the nation's and our state'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. NFIB represents the small Main Street business owners from throughout Rhode Island. On behalf of those small and independent business employers, I urge you to oppose House Bill No. 5328 in its current form.

While we understand informing eating establishments of any potential allergies is important, we oppose the hefty fine associated with this legislation. Restaurants were particularly impacted by the pandemic, and we don't want to burden these small businesses with an onerous \$500 fine.

I urge this committee to find a less costly way to ensure small businesses comply with additional allergy warnings on menus.