



**Testimony in support of H-7064 Sub A**

January 31, 2024

Honorable Chairperson McEntee and the members of the House Committee on Small Business:

On behalf of the Federal Hill Commerce Association one of the state's top dining and entertainment destinations, representing over 50 dining establishments. As well as entrepreneur and resident of Rhode Island who wants to ensure our state's food and drink economy can continue to thrive and expand. I am **in favor of passage of H-7064 Sub A.**

Our restaurants of which 90% are small businesses are still feeling the effects from ongoing changes in customer behavior in this post-pandemic world. Restricting municipalities from prohibiting outdoor dining, while still allowing them to enforce all zoning and noise ordinances, reinforces the municipality's rights while still allowing restaurants to cater to customer demands and generate much needed income. Income which is also subject to the 7% and 1% dining sales tax, which benefits both the state and municipality they are located in.

Respectfully, I urge you to recommend passage of H-7064 Sub A to the full House. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rick Simone  
President

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