



Testimony in support of H-7064 Sub A

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

I am the Founder and Chair of RI Small Business Coalition, an organization of over 1500 small businesses here in Rhode Island. And we are advocating on behalf of our small businesses that grow when Rhode Island becomes a state built for small businesses. We have many members in the food ecosystem that have a direct impact on our economy. As an entrepreneur and resident of Rhode Island who wants to see our state's food and drink economy thrive and expand to attract new business, I am **in favor of passage of H-7064 Sub A**.

Our restaurants and bars are still feeling the effects from changes in customer behavior post-pandemic. Restricting municipalities from prohibiting outdoor dining, while still allowing them to enforce all zoning and noise ordinances, reinforces the municipality's rights while allowing an establishment to generate some additional income. Income which is also subject to the 8% dining sales tax, which will benefit both the state and municipality.

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

Christopher Parisi

Christopher Parisi
Chairperson, RISBC