



Honorable Carol McEntee
Chairperson, House Small Business Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

March 26, 2021

RE: Testimony on H6119 – imposes one year moratorium on enforcement of municipal ordinance or zoning requirement that penalizes owners of food service establishments/bars for modifications/alternations to their premises in response to an emergency declaration.

Chairperson McEntee,

The undersigned members of the Rhode Island Business Coalition support H6119 – imposes one year moratorium on enforcement of municipal ordinance or zoning requirement that penalizes owners of food service establishments/bars for modifications/alternations to their premises in response to an emergency declaration. This act would impose a moratorium on any municipal ordinance or zoning requirement that would penalize owners of food service establishments and bars for any modification or alternations to their premises in response to an emergency declaration by the Governor or local municipal officials.

During this pandemic, most municipalities worked with businesses and relaxed their zoning requirements for restaurants as they expanded their dining options. Many restaurants expanded their outdoor dining options in 2020 due to the COVID indoor dining restrictions. This legislation would allow these businesses to continue offering their outdoor dining options throughout 2021 without having to go through the zoning process in their individual municipalities. This pandemic has hit small businesses, particularly restaurants, very hard. Many small businesses rely on their outdoor dining in order to sustain themselves.

We respectfully ask that you support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Associated Builders and Contractors of Rhode Island – Maureen E. Grillo, President
Rhode Island Lumber and Building Materials Dealers Association – Kirk Ives, Regional Director
Rhode Island Hospitality Association – Dale J. Venturini, President/CEO
Rhode Island Small Business Economic Summit – Gary Ezovski, Regulations Committee Chairman
Rhode Island Small Business Economic Summit – Grafton Willey, Tax and Budget Committee Chairman

NFIB – Christopher Carozzi, State Director
Ivy Wealth Management, Ralph Coppola