



March 24, 2026

The Honorable Robert Britto, Chairman
Senate Commerce Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H.2342, An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations – Restrictions on Self-Service Checkout Stations Act

Dear Chairman Britto,

The undersigned members of the Rhode Island Business Coalition wish to register our opposition to S.2342, An Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations – Restrictions on Self-Service Checkout Stations Act. This bill places the following restrictions on grocery stores:

- (1) it limits the number of customer self-checkout stations to eight; and
- (2) adds a requirement that grocery stores maintain one manual check-out station for every two self-checkout stations in use.

In addition, the bill requires the Department of Labor and Training to enact rules and regulations to implement the provisions of the law.

S.2342 raises a fundamental question for the state, “to what length can government dictate the operations of a business, including its ability to automate to become efficient?” Like many industries today, grocery stores are facing a difficult time finding and retaining employees. Incorporating a balance of self-checkout stations along with checkouts staffed by employees, improves the customer experience by ensuring shoppers can finish their shopping in a timely manner.

Grocery stores are a crucial part of the economy. These entities provide opportunities for residents and businesses to purchase needed products. Many customers prefer the convenience provided by self-checkout stations that allow them to save time.

The Rhode Island Business Coalition represents 50 industries and 6,280 businesses that employ 231,200 people throughout Rhode Island.

We urge the committee to hold this legislation and to not create policies that discourage and penalize businesses from operating while curtailing consumer choices.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Chenevert, Chairman, Rhode Island Business Coalition

Associated Builders and Contractors – Rhode Island Chapter

East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce

Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce

National Federation of Independent Business

Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce

Propane Gas Association of New England

Rhode Island Beverage Association

Rhode Island Small Business Economic Summit Regulations Subcommittee

Rhode Island Small Business Summit Tax and Budget Committee

Rhode Island Staffing Association

cc. Senate Commerce Committee members