



**State of Rhode Island**  
**Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos**

March 24, 2026

Senator Robert Britto  
Chair, Senate Commerce Committee  
82 Smith St, Room 212  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Letter of Support for S2342: An Act Relating To Labor And Labor Relations -- Restrictions On Self-Service Checkout Stations Act

Dear Senator Britto:

I write to you in support of S2342: An Act Relating To Labor And Labor Relations -- Restrictions On Self-Service Checkout Stations Act. This legislation places limits on the number of self-service checkout stations a grocery store can have and on the workload of employees assigned to monitor those checkout stations.

While self-checkout lanes can serve as a helpful supplement to conventional checkout lanes, too often grocery stores implement self-checkout lanes to do away with staffed checkout entirely. Beyond the obvious deleterious implications this will have to the labor market, consumers and smaller grocery stores will also be at a disadvantage in a market that continues to push self-checkout without any restrictions.

First, while self-checkout may be a more efficient option for those looking for a speedier transaction process, those efficiencies are lost when everybody shopping at the store must go through self-checkout. Second, several studies have found that the proliferation of self-checkout lanes have led to inventory loss due to theft or other factors. While larger supermarket chains may be able to write-off that shrink, this will adversely impact smaller grocers with razor-thin margins who have already expended substantial up-front costs to install these self-checkout lanes in the first place.

Consumers deserve choices that best meet their needs, and smaller grocery stores deserve their chance to compete fairly with their larger chain counterparts. For these reasons and more, I urge you to vote this bill favorably out of committee.

Sincerely,

Sabina Matos

Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor

CC: Senator Valerie Lawson