



Member Focused; Results Driven

March 24, 2026

Oppose

The Honorable Robert Britto
Chair: Senate Commerce Committee
State of Rhode Island General Assembly
The State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Senate Bill 2428: Ban on Dynamic and Surveillance Pricing

Dear Honorable Chair:

My name is Scott Bromberg, and I am the President & CEO of the Rhode Island Food Dealers Association, a trade association established in 1909 to serve the needs of the grocery industry in the State of Rhode Island. Our membership includes chain and independent grocery retailers, wholesalers, suppliers, distributors, food manufacturers, brokers, and other organizations affiliated with the food industry in our state. As an industry, we are among the state's largest employers and revenue generators.

While well-intentioned, these bills offer misguided solutions that will inadvertently make the shopping experience more challenging for customers and retailers alike. Food prices are dictated by a complex set of factors, including supply, consumer demand, input costs like energy and labor, severe weather and geopolitical factors, among others. Retailers often adjust prices to reduce inventory levels, particularly on perishable products. For example, a bakery may reduce prices on end-of-day items to avoid waste. Retailers need flexibility to adjust prices, as these discounts are essential for many consumers who shop on strict budgets and also ensure that the grocery industry has the flexibility to do its part to prevent food waste from entering the waste stream. Pricing adjustments allow for efficient inventory management and lower prices for consumers. Legislation on pricing could (inadvertently) prohibit discounts that result from membership programs, subscription discounts, digital rebates, or markdowns, resulting in consumers losing access to lower prices. Legislation must have allowances for loyalty and membership programs, coupons, and rewards offered on equal terms to eligible participants, as well as markdowns or clearance prices applied uniformly for all customers.

In summary, Rhode Island's food industry is one of the largest – and steadiest – employers in the state. This proposed bill would have a negative impact on our members as it would make it much more difficult to manage and operate their business effectively and efficiently and offer the best prices in Rhode Island. We ask you to recognize their position when considering Senate Bill 2428.

RIFDA

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Thank you for allowing our industry to weigh in on this bill.

Sincerely,



Scott Bromberg
President & CEO
RI Food Dealers Association

CC: Hon. Valerie J. Lawson, President
Rhode Island State Senate

Hon. Frank A. Ciccone, III, Majority Leader
Rhode Island State Senate

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