

March 24, 2026

The Honorable Robert Britto
Chair, Senate Commerce Committee
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Britto and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Rhode Island's hospitality industry, we respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to S 2428. While we fully support fair business practices and consumer protections, this legislation would severely and unnecessarily restrict hotels' ability to adjust pricing in ways that are essential to our operations and the state's tourism economy.


Hotels operate in a highly dynamic market, where room rates fluctuate based on demand, seasonality, events, and occupancy levels. These adjustments are not arbitrary; they are critical tools that allow hotels to remain financially viable, maximize occupancy, and offer competitive rates to travelers. By broadly prohibiting dynamic pricing and surveillance-based pricing, S 2428 would effectively tie the hands of businesses, forcing all customers to pay the same rate regardless of legitimate market conditions. This approach undermines standard industry practices used across the country and internationally.


The bill does not account for the realities of the hospitality industry. Rhode Island is expected to welcome hundreds of thousands of additional tourists this summer for the World Cup, the 250th anniversary of the United States, and other large-scale events. Demand for hotel rooms across the state will be exceptionally high. By restricting the ability of hotels to adjust prices, we not only hurt our businesses, but we also risk significant lost revenue for the state and municipalities in the form of sales tax and state and local hotel taxes. These are dollars that directly support public services, infrastructure, and tourism promotion.

We urge the Committee to consider the practical implications of this legislation on hotels, small businesses, and the state's hospitality-driven economy. Protecting consumers should not come at the cost of forcing Rhode Island hotels to adopt rigid, one-size-fits-all pricing models that do not reflect the realities of the market. We respectfully request that the Committee oppose S 2428. Thank you for your attention to these concerns.

Sincerely,

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