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Testimony of

Christopher Carlozzi, State Director, National Federation of Independent Business
In Support of Senate Bill No. 2639
Relating to Food and Drugs – Single Use Plastic Straws
Before the Senate Committee on Commerce
March 24, 2026

Chairman Britto and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce:

My name is Christopher Carlozzi. I am the Rhode Island State Director of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB). A non-profit, non-partisan organization, NFIB is the nation's and Rhode Island's largest small business advocacy group. In Rhode Island, NFIB represents hundreds of small and independent business owners involved in all types of industry, including manufacturing, retail, wholesale, service, and agriculture. The average NFIB member has five employees and annual gross revenues of about \$450,000. In short, NFIB represents the small Main Street business owners from across the state. On behalf of those small and independent business employers in Rhode Island, I urge you to support Senate Bill No. 2639 providing exemptions for the plastic straw ban.

This is a commonsense proposal that helps address the concerns of small businesses regarding the plastic straw law. Customer satisfaction is important for small businesses that depend upon repeat customers for survival. If a patron drives away from a take-out restaurant or drive-through not realizing they are missing their straw, it could result in a negative experience for the consumer. That customer will not blame the current prohibition on plastic straws, that customer will blame the business. That is why this bill makes sense for both consumers and businesses.

NFIB supports this legislation to provide flexibility for small businesses regarding the state's plastic straw law. We urge you to support Senate Bill No. 2639, thank you.