



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 S2643: An Act Relating To Commercial Law -- General Regulatory Provisions -- Unfair Sales Practices

Dear Senator Britto:

I write to you in strong support of S2643: An Act Relating To Commercial Law -- General Regulatory Provisions -- Unfair Sales Practices. This bill provides that stores offering food product discounts must provide the same discounts to in-store customers that are offered to customers using electronic digital coupons.

As grocery prices continue to rise, savvy shoppers turn to coupons and deals found exclusively in the retailers proprietary app. While these prices can help make ends meet for those who use them, these in-app exclusives are entirely out-of-reach for the 20% of seniors who say they do not own a smartphone, according to Pew Research. Furthermore, a similar Pew Research study found that 18% of people making less than \$30,000/year report owning a smartphone, keeping these price savings out of the hands of the people who need them most.

Shoppers should have the ability to continue to benefit from sales and deals, and so too should grocery stores be incentivized to offer goods at discounted prices to help reduce food waste and clear up space on shelves for newer products. But these deals should be accessible to everyone. S2643 simply requires that any deal made through an app should also be redeemable in-person in some shape or form. This would not require grocery stores to print paper coupons, but requires there to be some way to access and redeem in-app deals at the store.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote this bill favorably out of committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabina Matos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sabina Matos
Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor
CC: Senator Victoria Gu