

**From:** [Jan OKelley](#)  
**To:** [SLegislation](#)  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 2644  
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To: Chair Britto and Members of the Senate Commerce Committee

I am a member of the Loaves and Fishes Committee at St. Luke's Episcopale Church in East Greenwich, RI. Food insecurity is prevalent in Woonsocket. We know that the folks we serve there have very limited access to food in great part to "scorched earth covenants" which prevent rebuilding another grocery store on property where a grocery store has previously existed. These lots remain vacant for years. Under this covenant, big chain supermarkets block competition and create "food deserts".

S2644 prohibits restrictive covenants for grocery stores. I implore you to pass S2644 in 2026.

Sincerely,  
Jan OKelley and Richard McCorkle  
62 West Bay Drive  
Narragansett, RI