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Testimony of
Christopher Carlozzi, NFIB State Director
In Opposition to Senate Bill No. 2113
An Act Relating to Food and Drugs – Healthy Kids Act
Before the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
March 31, 2026

Chair Murray and Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Christopher Carlozzi. I am the Rhode Island State Director for NFIB. A non-profit, non-partisan organization, NFIB is the nation's and our state'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. NFIB represents the small Main Street business owners from throughout Rhode Island. On behalf of those small and independent business employers, I urge you to oppose Senate Bill No. 2113 in its current form.

While well-intended, Senate Bill No. 2113 could become a costly and burdensome new mandate for Rhode Island restaurants and their patrons. This bill is needless intervention in a small business' operation and could result in neighborhood restaurants no longer offering lower cost children's menu items. If the state is going to set unreasonable and complex new mandates for children's menu items, it will result in the lower priced option being removed from menus altogether and parents will no choice but to order a regular priced meal for their child.

Most small business owners want to ensure the customer has a satisfactory experience and feel it is best left to the consumer to decide what they order for their families without state intervention. Additionally, this bill has yet to set how a business must comply with the new mandate. Will it result in fines? Loss of operating licenses for failure to offer these specific menu items? Ironically, schools are exempted from the rigid standards set in this bill.

As menu prices continue to rise due to inflation and the high cost of doing business in Rhode Island, I urge the committee to reject this proposal that will mean parents pay more for dining out as restaurants will remove lower cost, smaller portioned meals for children from their menus.