



**Champion Advocacy
Associates**

February 27, 2024

Honorable Joseph Solomon
Chairman, House Corporations Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

Chairman Solomon and Committee Members,

The Northern RI Chamber of Commerce (NRICC) represents businesses in the communities of Burrillville, Central Falls, Cumberland, Foster, Glocester, Johnston, Lincoln, North Providence, North Smithfield, Pawtucket, Scituate, Smithfield and Woonsocket.

The Chamber wishes to be on record as opposing the passage of H.7230, An Act Relating to Commercial Law – Grocery Stores. This bill limits the number of customer self-checkout stations to six; requires certain stores to maintain one manual check-out station for every self-checkout station in use; and gives the Attorney General broad authority to enforce the law and to create penalties. H.7230 could bring under its umbrella grocery stores, pharmacies, and certain retail stores that offer a wide array of goods.

Businesses must continually adapt to the market place. Following the “great resignation,” our state is experiencing a time of low unemployment rates with employees difficult to find. One way for the retail industry to adapt is to provide customers with an opportunity to self-check their purchases. Many customers actually prefer this option. H.7230 discourages the use of such technology, thus placing a business in a difficult situation of being unable to serve the majority of customers.

Grocery, pharmacies and large retail stores are a crucial part of the economy. These entities provide opportunities for residents and businesses to purchase needed products.

The Chamber asks the committee to oppose this legislation and to not create policies that dictate a business’s choice of technology. Thank you for your consideration of the Chamber’s comments.

Sincerely,

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