



David Dadekian
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Testimony in support of H-8280

May 22, 2024

Honorable Chairperson Donovan and members of the House Health and Human Services Committee:

I am the founder and president of Eat Drink RI, one of the top media and marketing companies in the region for all things culinary. As an advocate for our food system, a small business owner who wants to see our state's food and drink economy thrive, and as a founding board member of the RI Small Business Coalition, **I strongly support H-8280.**

Good Food Purchasing policies would increase access to fresh and healthy foods through value-driven purchasing standards. By adopting such an approach, the State of Rhode Island can improve the health of its citizens by helping to support a regional food system that is ecologically sound, economically viable, socially responsible, and will increase access to fresh and healthy foods to all communities.

A focus on state institutional food procurement standards recognizes the buying power of public institutions' ability to reform our food system for the betterment of our state as advocated by a Harvard report on government purchasing. It can create opportunities for smaller farmers and low-income entrepreneurs to thrive, provide just compensation and fair treatment for food chain workers, support sustainable farming practices and reward good environmental stewardship.

Thank you to Representative Kislak and his co-sponsors on H-8280. Respectfully, I urge you to pass H-8280 forward to the full House for passage this session. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David S. Dadekian". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

David Dadekian