



June 18, 2019

Hon. Paul Brodeur, House Chair
Hon. Patricia D. Jehlen, Senate Chair
Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Brodeur and Chair Jehlen:

On behalf of our diverse group of employer organizations, we wish to be recorded in opposition to H.1593, S.1073, and S.1111, which would undo a key negotiated provision of the Chapter 121 (of the Acts of 2018) agreement passed one year ago by reinstating the Blue Law retail premium pay requirement for Sundays and Holidays. Furthermore, we respectfully urge the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development and the entire Legislature to move quickly to fix the acknowledged oversight in Chapter 121 which left unchanged three of the six negotiated Retail Premium Pay holidays, due to a drafting error related to the complexities of Chapter 136.

In the current national political environment, it is unique and encouraging that here in Massachusetts we can still negotiate in good faith and find compromise. Last year, we joined with House and Senate leadership and with representatives of Raise Up Massachusetts to find a careful and balanced pathway forward that would remove from consideration three pending statewide ballot questions: a proposed \$1 billion reduction in the sales tax; an increase of the state minimum wage to \$15; and the Paid Family and Medical Leave proposal. An agreement coalesced around phasing-in a \$15 minimum wage, creating a paid family and medical leave program, and codifying a permanent annual Sales Tax Holiday while phasing-out the premium pay requirements. Twelve months after reaching that significant agreement, we strongly urge that those commitments be honored and preserved, and we urge you to reject H.1593, S.1073 and S.1111.

Although no organization around the negotiating table supported the entire package, the process worked with legislators finding middle ground that resulted in a more balanced economic public policy. It is in

that spirit that we respectfully ask that the commitments made in Chapter 121 be maintained and this legislation be rejected.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Christopher R. Carozzi
State Director
MA Chapter of NFIB



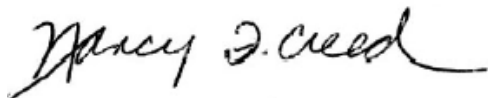
Bob Luz
President & CEO
Massachusetts Restaurant Association



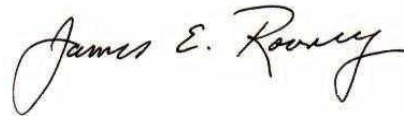
JD Chesloff
Executive Director
Massachusetts Business Roundtable



Brad MacDougall
Vice President for Government Affairs
Associated Industries of Massachusetts



Nancy F. Creed
President
Springfield Regional Chamber



James E. Rooney
President & CEO
Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce



Jon B. Hurst
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