Steven Sepe

From: Chris O'Brien
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 3:38 PM
To: Steven Sepe
Subject: FW: RI Livable Home Modification Grant Support Letter

From: Cheryl Walason [mailto:cheryl@oakleyhomeaccess.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 3:17 PM
To: Rep. Abney, Marvin L. <rep-Abney@rilegislature.gov>
Cc: Chris O'Brien <CObrien@rilegislature.gov>
Subject: RI Livable Home Modification Grant Support Letter

July 29th, 2020

Dear Representative Abney,

First of all, thank you for your diligent service to our state of Rhode Island and especially for your leadership on the Finance Committee.

As your constituent, I am writing to you to express my support of the Rhode Island Livable Home Modification Grant, RILHMG. I ask if you will join us in support of this program. With the current public health crisis, it has become more pertinent than ever to keep individuals, your constituents, safely at home and out of congregate settings.

The grant program, first initiated by AARP, provides funds to the hundreds of thousands elder and disabled Rhode Islanders to modify their home with wheelchair ramps, chair lifts, and walk-in roll-in showers, allowing them to age at home. This will become even more important to older Rhode Islanders as we address the new normal brought on by COVID-19.

To keep them safe, some older Rhode Islanders have been moved out of nursing homes, and families are reconsidering nursing homes altogether. But without the Livable Home Modification Grant Program, their home may not be a safe nor accessible place for our State's loved ones to live.

Additional benefits of the Livable Home Modification Program include:

- Keeping people in their own homes and not nursing homes, saves state taxpayer dollars by **reducing state Medicaid costs**.
- These home modifications, like walk-in/roll-in showers, chair lifts, and wheelchair ramps, become **permanent assets for future homeowners**.
- Addressing these home modifications will **reduce falls, which represent the leading case of injury hospitalizations in Rhode Island**, and most of these people are age 65 and over.

The Livable Home Modification Grant program is a critical lifeline for the thousands of families who choose to keep their loved ones at home instead of a nursing home. Although it is a small fraction of the State's overall budget, the program has had and will have a significant impact on so many Rhode Island families in your very own district. We implore you to maintain the $500,000.00 earmarked in the budget for this important program. **I would like to know if we will have your support of this program when you weigh in on the 2021 budget?**

Again, thank you for your diligent service for our great State. Looking forward to hearing more about your stance on this program.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Walason
190 Hampton Way
Wakefield, RI 02879