



April 24, 2025

Dear Chair Solomon and Members House Corporations Committee,

**RE: Support for H5833**

On behalf of the Senior Agenda Coalition of Rhode Island (SACRI), I am pleased to support H5833, AN ACT RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- MOBILE COSMETOLOGY AND BARBERING SERVICES introduced by Representatives Shallcross Smith, Boylan and Alzate.

SACRI'S mission is to mobilize people to implement an agenda that improves the quality of life of older Rhode Islanders and adults with disabilities and their family caregivers. We accomplish this through *community organizing, public education, advocacy, and legislative action*.

H5833 would provide for the licensure and operation of mobile cosmetology and barber services which may be provided in a mobile unit or a remote location which is defined as an indoor room in a permanent building selected by the consumer that is neither a mobile unit nor a shop or salon licensed by the board. The bill provides for consumer protections by requiring persons offering mobile services to register and be approved by the Board and for the Board to inspect the mobile unit which must meet specific requirements including continuous hot potable water, a chemical flush toilet and waste-holding tank. Mobile businesses would also have to keep detailed records to be available to the Board for inspection.

The Rhode Island population is growing older. Persons age 65 and over already comprise close to 20% of the population – and in some communities they have reached 30% or more. Data shows that almost one out of five older persons have an ambulatory disability which can make getting out to hairdressers and barbers challenging for them and for the hundreds of unpaid caregivers who assist them to remain living at home. It is not only older persons who would benefit from passage of this bill. Persons of all ages with mobility disabilities whether it be a child with cerebral palsy, a youth with traumatic brain injury or an adult with ALS along with their caregivers face similar challenges in accessing these needed personal services.

We urge you to recommend its passage and thank you for your consideration of SACRI's support.

Carol Costa, Executive Director  
SACRI