



April 21, 2025

The Honorable Representative Martin Abney
House Finance Committee, Chair
Rhode Island House of Representatives
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: House Bill No. 6149 – Relating to Human Services – Rhode Island Meals on Wheels Inc. Fund

Dear Chairman Abney,

On behalf of the Edward King House Senior Center, I am writing to express our enthusiastic and unwavering support for the passage of **House Bill No. 6149 – Relating to Human Services – Rhode Island Meals on Wheels Inc. Fund.**

This important legislation proposes the establishment of a dedicated fund within the state's general fund — the **Rhode Island Meals on Wheels Inc. Fund** — to be administered by the General Treasurer in accordance with existing fiscal procedures. The fund will be comprised of contributions collected through the taxpayer check-off option outlined in Chapter 30 of Title 44, and may also include grants, donations, bequests, and other financial gifts. These funds will be made available annually by September 30 for the exclusive use of Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island, Inc., to support individuals and families who meet eligibility criteria.

In 2024 alone, **Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island, Inc. (MOWRI)** served 3,738 Rhode Islanders facing food insecurity, social isolation, and the threat of losing their independence. In 2025, MOWRI is not only broadening its reach to new populations but also deepening its impact across the state. However, the increasing cost of food and the growing demands of our aging population pose significant challenges.

The additional resources made available through the Rhode Island Meals on Wheels Inc. Fund will play a critical role in expanding services and ensuring the long-term sustainability of this essential organization. This is especially important to the elders we serve in Newport County, who would otherwise go hungry and lose the human connection they receive from the army of MOW volunteers.

We believe this bill represents a thoughtful and compassionate step forward in addressing the needs of vulnerable Rhode Islanders. By supporting this measure, you are directly

investing in the well-being, dignity, and independence of our older adults and those at risk of hunger across the state.

We respectfully urge the committee to pass House Bill 6149 and thank you sincerely for your consideration and continued support of this vital cause.

Warm regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carmela Geer".

Carmela Geer
Executive Director

CC: The Honorable Representative George Nardone
The Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee
Jamie Plume, Committee Clerk