



400 Massasoit Avenue  
Suite 300  
East Providence, RI 02914

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

April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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

Dear Chairman Abney,

On behalf of CareLink, I wish to express our strong support for the passage of House Bill Number 6149 – Relating to Human Services – Rhode Island Meals on Wheels Inc. Fund. Through our work providing specialized healthcare and wellness supports to older adults and adults with disabilities across RI, CareLink sees firsthand the need for resources for proper nutrition for this at-risk, often homebound population.

The bill would establish a separate fund within the general fund called the Rhode Island Meals on Wheels Inc. Fund, which would be administered by the general treasurer in accordance with the same laws and fiscal procedures as the general fund of the state. The fund will consist of sums collected as a result of the taxpayer check-off as provided for in chapter 30 of title 10 44. The general treasurer is authorized to accept any grant, devise, bequest, donation, gift, or assignment of money, bonds, or other valuable securities for deposit in and credit of the Rhode Island Meals on Wheels Inc. Fund. The monies received under this chapter and § 44-30-2.13 will be made available by the treasurer annually by September 30 to the Rhode Island Meals on Wheels Inc. Fund. Upon distribution, the monies shall be used exclusively for those individuals and/or families who are eligible.

In 2024, Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island, Inc. (MOWRI) served 3,738 Rhode Islanders at-risk of food insecurity, isolation and loss of independence. In 2025, the organization is reaching new populations and deepening its impact statewide. However, the rising cost of food, combined with the aging population creates a unique challenge for the organization. Additional funds raised through the Rhode Island Meals on Wheels Inc. Fund will assist the organization in serving more people and ensure its sustainability for the future.

We strongly urge the committee to pass this bill. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Christine Gadbois, DNP, RN  
Chief Executive Officer

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