

## **Support for H 6149 and S 0845 – Meals on Wheels Fund**

Dear Chairmen Abney and DiPalma,

As a member of the board of directors with Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island, I'm writing to express my strong support for House Bill 6149 and Senate Bill 0845.

As we all can agree, MOW serves our most vulnerable population, however the services go far beyond simple nourishment. MOW services members of our community who may just need a hand-up or friendly face to check in to make sure everything is ok. Doing so provides security and peace of mind that someone cares. It is difficult to put a price on a loved one's safety or security.

By passing these bills this would establish a dedicated fund supported by voluntary taxpayer donations to help Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island continue providing essential services to older adults across the state. As stated above these funds would directly support meals, wellness checks, and social connections for individuals who are often isolated and at risk of going hungry.

In 2024, Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island served over 3,700 individuals, and the need continues to grow.

With rising food costs and an aging population, this legislation comes at a critical time. Supporting it would help ensure that no Rhode Island senior goes hungry or feels forgotten.

Thank you for considering this important legislation. I urge you and the committee to support its passage.

Sincerely,

Joseph W. Rotella, MOW Board Member.

Johnston, RI