

Chris O'Brien

From: Martha Yates <mymail.02835@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2025 2:18 PM
To: House Finance Committee; Senate Finance
Cc: mgrady@rimeals.org
Subject: Support for H 6149 and S 0845 - Meals on Wheels Funds

Dear Chairmen Abney and DiPalma:

As a volunteer with Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island, I am writing to voice my strong support for House Bill 6149 and Senate Bill 0845 – Relating to Human Services – Rhode Island Meals on Wheels Inc. Fund.

These bills 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. 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 service over 3,700 individuals and the need continues to grow.

After retiring in 2020, I was looking for a volunteer opportunity and discovered Meals on Wheels. I have been delivering meals in Portsmouth, Middletown and Newport since 2021 and have grown close to many of the people on my routes. Not only do they depend on the food, but they also look forward to my visit. I am often the only person they will see that day.

This bill comes at a critical time because of rising food costs and an aging population. 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,

Martha Yates
Jamestown, RI