



Americas • Asia • Europe • Middle East • Africa

April 24, 2025

Subject Line: **Support for H 6149 and S 0845 – Meals on Wheels Fund**

Re: *Senate Bill No. 0845 and House Bill No. 6145 – Relating to Human Services – Rhode Island Meals on Wheels Inc. Fund*

Dear Chairmen Abney and DiPalma,

As the **Director of HR & Social Responsibility** at Cooley Group and **Board Member** of multiple non-profits including Meals on Wheels, I'm writing to express my strong support for House Bill 6149 and Senate Bill 0845 – Relating to Human Services – Rhode Island Meals on Wheels Inc. Fund.

In my day job I work with a number of RI non-profit organizations and cannot speak highly enough about my experience with Meals on Wheels RI.

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.

I have two family members that have needed meal support from Meals on Wheels, both my grandmother when she was aging at home with Alzheimer's and my father when battling cancer and homebound. This service was imperative to their nutrition and I encourage you to help make it easier for Rhode Islanders to give to this wonderful organization.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan M Herne".

Megan Herne, PHR, SHRM-CP
Director of HR & Social Responsibility

Resident of Warwick

