



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 and Members of the Committee:

Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island (MOWRI) formally voices its strong support for the passage of House Bill Number 6149 – Relating to Human Services – Rhode Island Meals on Wheels Inc. Fund.

MOWRI is an organization dedicated to meeting the nutritional and social needs of those we serve so they can maintain safe and independent lifestyles. Since 1969, we have served more than 21-million home-delivered meals in Rhode Island and have helped tens of thousands of homebound older adults to experience improved health and safety at home.

This 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 because 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.

(Continued)

In 2024, we 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 our organization. Additional funds raised through the Rhode Island Meals on Wheels Inc. Fund will assist us in serving more people and ensure our sustainability for the future.

Passage of this bill will ensure continued access to our needed community-based service. We respectfully request that you support and pass this important legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Meghan Grady', with a stylized, flowing script.

Meghan Grady  
Executive Director

CC: Christopher O'Brien, Committee Clerk