



Testimony of Matthew Netto, AARP Rhode Island

In support of House Bill 6194

House Finance Committee

April 24, 2025

Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee:

On behalf of AARP Rhode Island and our over 125,000 members in Rhode Island, I am pleased to express strong support for Representative Nardone's House Bill 6194, which would establish a separate fund within the general fund called the Rhode Island Meals on Wheels Inc. Fund.

The Rhode Island Meals on Wheels Inc. Fund 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.

AARP and Meals on Wheels America share the common goals of reducing food insecurity and isolation among older adults. We strongly urge the committee to recommend passage on House Bill 6194. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Matt Netto".

Matt Netto
Associate State Director, Advocacy
AARP Rhode Island