



April 30, 2025

House Committee on Finance
Rhode Island State House
HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov

Re: **Testimony SUPPORTING HB 5529**, to expand eligibility for the Medicare Savings Program

Dear Chair Abney and Honorable Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of House Bill 5529.

ABC-RI stands for the rights and interests of all Rhode Islanders residing in long-term care facilities. We also support legislation that will enable Rhode Islanders to postpone or prevent the necessity of moving into a long-term care facility.

With the current eligibility limits for participating in the Medicare Savings Program, many low- and moderate-income seniors and adults with disabilities in Rhode Island aren't able to afford the care they need.

When seniors can't get the care they need, their health declines, and they frequently end up in long-term care—with a poor quality of life, and at much greater expense to the state. Likewise, when seniors use all of their resources to pay for necessary health care, they become destitute and are forced to rely on Medicaid, also at greater expense to the state.

This important bill will help vulnerable low-income seniors and adults with disabilities to afford the healthcare they need, help keep them out of long-term care facilities, and will ultimately save the state money. We respectfully urge you to pass it.

Thank you for your time and attention, and for all of your work on behalf of all Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Gerard,
ABC-RI