

**RHODE ISLAND COALITION FOR ELDER JUSTICE**

*Working Together for a Safe and Just Elder Community*



**Education | Advocacy | Empowerment**

Rhode Island Coalition for Elder Justice  
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April 28, 2025

RI General Assembly  
House Finance Committee  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: Support of House Bill 5529, RELATING TO EXPANDING ACCESS TO THE MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAM (MSP)**

Dear Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee,

The Rhode Island Coalition for Elder Justice is writing to express strong support for H5529, legislation that would expand access to the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) by increasing the income eligibility limit from \$1,781 to \$2,445 per month.

Thousands of older adults and people with disabilities in Rhode Island struggle daily to afford healthcare costs, often having to make impossible choices between paying for needed care, food, or housing. H5529 would allow more low-income seniors and individuals with disabilities to enroll in MSP, ensuring that their Medicare Part B premiums are covered and easing financial burdens by at least \$2,200 per year.

Additionally, this bill would enroll eligible individuals automatically into the Extra Help Program to lower their prescription drug costs, eliminate burdensome co-pays and deductibles for very low-income individuals, and remove outdated asset limits that restrict access to critical programs.

Passing H5529 is an important step toward making Rhode Island a leader alongside Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, and other states that have already increased access to MSP. This bill would have a meaningful, positive impact on some of our most vulnerable residents.

Please vote in favor of H5529 and help Rhode Islanders live healthier, more secure lives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robin Ashley Covington, MPA  
The Rhode Island Coalition for Elder Justice

*The Coalition is a partnership among victim service agencies, senior service agencies, community groups, advocacy groups, law enforcement and state departments. Its purpose is to create an effective community coordinated response to the abuse of older adults. The Coalition is a statewide effort inclusive of adults aged 50 and older (who may also be disabled).*