



To: House Finance Committee
From: Karen Malcolm, Protect Our Healthcare Coalition, ProtectRIHealth@gmail.com
Date: May 22, 2025
Re: **SUPPORT House Resolution 6017 – RI Community Food Bank Allocation**

The Protect Our HealthCare Coalition is a group of leading Rhode Island non-profits and consumer groups with a shared mission to protect, improve, and expand equitable access to quality, person-centered, affordable health care for all.

We strongly **support House Resolution 6017** because **we are deeply concerned about the persisting issue of food insecurity in Rhode Island, which is a critical social determinant of health.** The Governor's proposed allocation for the Food Bank represents a cut of \$250,000 at a time when the Food Bank is serving more Rhode Islanders through its member agencies than ever before **and in the face of deep cuts to SNAP benefits being voted in Congress.**

According to the RI Life Index, the level of food insecurity in our state remains alarmingly high, with 38% of households with children reporting that they cannot afford adequate food.¹

House Resolution 6017 will increase the Food Bank's budget allocation to a total of \$1 million (adding \$450,000 to the Governor's proposed \$550,000), helping bring nutritious food directly into low-income households as a safeguard against chronic food insecurity, and helping to ensure the health and wellbeing of our families, kids, and older adults.

We urge the Committee's support.

Thank you.

Protect Our Healthcare Coalition partners include: Economic Progress Institute, RIPIN, Mental Health Association RI, RI Health Center Association, Latino Policy Institute, Central Providence Opportunities: A Health Equity Zone (CPO-HEZ), United Way of Rhode Island, Senior Agenda Coalition RI, RI Medical Society, Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, SEIU Rhode Island Council, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Leukemia/Lymphoma Society, RI Coalition for the Homeless, Rhode Island Working Families Party, Mental Health Recovery Coalition, RI Community Food Bank, RI Psychological Association, Substance Use & Mental Health Leadership Council, Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families, HousingWorksRI, Rhode Island Organizing Project (RIOP), National Association of Social Workers RI Chapter, The Womxn Project, Advocates for Better Care

¹ <https://rilifeindex.org/>