

Dear Chair Abney and honorable committee members,

My name is Christina LaVarnway. I am a Rhode Island Realtor and a Board Member of Alliance for Better Long Term Care.

I am writing in strong support of Bill H-7059, providing funding to the RI Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

Through both my work and my role on the Board, I regularly see how overwhelming long-term care decisions can be for individuals and their families. In many of these situations, the Ombudsman Program is the only independent resource focused solely on the resident.

This program plays a critical role in helping residents and families navigate concerns, ask questions, and feel heard, especially during moments that can feel uncertain or unbalanced.

At the same time, the need continues to grow while resources remain limited. Additional funding would help ensure the program can maintain consistent presence, respond in a timely way, and continue supporting residents across Rhode Island.

In the transitions I support every day, families are not just making housing decisions, they are trying to protect the dignity and well-being of someone they love. The Ombudsman Program is an important part of that support system.

I respectfully urge you to support H-7059.

Respectfully,

Christina LaVarnway