

Dear Chair Abney and Honorable Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill HR 7059. The proposed funding of \$100,000 for the State of RI Long Term Care Ombudsman Program is desperately needed at a time where the number of complaints have tripled in the last year with 30% pertaining to abuse, neglect and overall quality care issues.

This funding is critically needed to address staffing shortages and increased workload that put vulnerable long term care residents at risk.

I respectfully ask for your support and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Ginny Lee

Retired Certified Volunteer Ombudsman