



May 14, 2026

The Honorable Marvin L Abney
Chair, House Finance Committee
Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street, Providence RI 02903

Re: Rhode Island Family Caregiver Tax Credit Act, H7241

Dear Mr. Chairman,

As a former State Senator, I'm pleased to submit testimony in support of H7241 to establish a Rhode Island Family Caregiver Tax credit. Family caregivers are the backbone of the United States healthcare system, helping parents, spouses, and other loved ones live with dignity in their own homes and maintain their quality of life.

The sponsors of this bill and unpaid family caregivers understand these issues all too well, and I thank the committee for their attention to this important issue. According to AARP, the average caregiver spends over \$7,200 annually on unreimbursed care-related expenses, although each of these selfless families would be the first to tell you there is no price they wouldn't pay to support their loved ones.

The many long-term ailments that can befall individuals and families do not discriminate, and yet we also know some feel the impact more than others. This is truly a bipartisan issue. Currently, five states including Missouri, Oklahoma, North Dakota, Georgia, and Hawaii, are already offering some form of caregiver tax credit and over a dozen red and blue states are introducing legislation similar to Rhode Island's.

Unfortunately, I have come to know firsthand how a long-term disease like Alzheimer's profoundly reshapes families, often for years as it slowly robs individuals of the abilities they have had their whole lives. For years, I watched as my Mom lovingly cared for my Dad, who himself lived a life of service as a Rhode Island State Trooper, as he suffered with Alzheimer's through his final years with us. My Mom was fortunate to have the ability to support my Dad through such a difficult time, yet we could all see the toll it took on her in more ways than one.

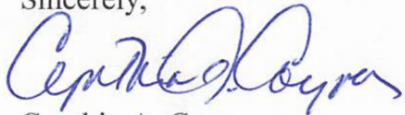
According to the Alzheimer's Association, more than 22,000 people aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's disease in Rhode Island, while 37,000 family caregivers provide 52 million hours of unpaid care, valued at approximately \$1.5 billion, and with an aging Baby Boomer generation, that impact is only expected to rise.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg, with over 200,000 Rhode Islanders - nearly one in four adults in our state - serving as family caregivers, with the financial and physical toll sustained by caregivers well documented and visible to all. That's why, during my tenure in the Rhode Island State Senate, I was so honored to serve as a member of the Long-Term Care Coordinating Council and to work to improve long-term care and improve Alzheimer's care.

As a candidate for Lt. Governor, one of my highest priorities is to ensure we are carefully and effectively using every available resource we have to ensure that everyone has the support and care they need, and this bill is a significant step forward to care for the caregivers. Perhaps no less important, this bill also honors caregivers who know that their lives are not measured by what they have but by what they have done for others.

I respectfully request the committee's consideration for passage of H7241.

Sincerely,



Cynthia A. Coyne

cc: Representative Scott Slater, First Vice Chair, House Finance Committee
Representative Alex Marszalkowski, Second Vice Chair, House Finance Committee
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance (via:
HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov)