



Chair Marvin Abney
House Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House

May 14, 2026

Re: In support of H 7258

Chairman Abney and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, I write in support of House Resolution 7258, which would appropriate \$200,000 to Farm Fresh RI to support incentives for fruits and vegetables sold at participating Bonus Bucks outlets in Rhode Island. The Food Bank supports this investment because it helps low-income Rhode Islanders afford more healthy food while strengthening the state's local food economy.

The Rhode Island Community Food Bank sees every day how essential SNAP is for households struggling to keep food on the table. We operate a bilingual SNAP Outreach Team that works across the state to help neighbors understand eligibility, complete applications, and maintain access to benefits, because SNAP remains one of the most effective tools for reducing food insecurity.

Programs that make SNAP go further are especially important as we see SNAP reductions due to HR1. Farm Fresh RI's Bonus Bucks program provides a 100 percent match on SNAP purchases at participating farmers markets, giving shoppers an extra dollar to spend on fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs from local farms for every SNAP dollar they use.

For the Food Bank, this proposal aligns with a broader goal: making sure Rhode Islanders can obtain the food they need in ways that are healthy, dignified, and sustainable. SNAP benefits are critical, but for many families they are still not enough to keep pace with the cost of living and the cost of nutritious food. By helping families purchase more fresh produce, this bill complements the state's anti-hunger infrastructure while supporting Rhode Island farmers and keeping more food dollars circulating locally.

For these reasons, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank respectfully urges the Committee to support House Resolution 7258. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to reducing hunger and improving access to healthy food for Rhode Islanders.

Melissa Cherney
CEO, Rhode Island Community Food Bank