

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Committee,

My name is Alice Msumba and I am a constituent from Providence. I am writing to you in strong support of H8171, the Food As Medicine Pilot Program Act.

I am a caregiver of older adult family members residing in the state of Rhode Island and a Board Member of the Alliance of Better Long Term Care. In my professional career I've worked with health insurance companies that manage health care benefits for Medicaid and Medicare eligible Rhode Islanders.

This legislation establishes a Food As Medicine Task Force to guide a targeted Medicaid pilot program. It builds-on the existing programs in Rhode Island and ensures future investments are data-driven and fiscally responsible.

As a caregiver for my parents and an older adult aunt, I have observed how the right foods can improve health outcomes and quality of life. By working with health care practitioners, I was able to identify the right, nutritious meals and establish a daily diet that works for each of the adults I have had the honor of caring for over the years. Food is caring and connection and beyond that, food is medicine.

I respectfully urge the committee to support and pass H8171.

Sincerely,

Alice Msumba