

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Meals on Wheels, and as a constituent of Cranston, I write in strong support of H8171, the Food As Medicine Pilot Program Act.

As a board member of Meals on Wheels, I have seen firsthand the profound impact that access to nutritious food has on the health and well-being of our communities.

This legislation establishes a Food As Medicine Task Force to guide a targeted Medicaid pilot program. It builds upon existing programs in Rhode Island and helps ensure that future investments are data-driven, effective, and fiscally responsible.

Food plays a vital role in our overall health, wellness, and longevity. A Food As Medicine approach begins in childhood by helping children grow strong, maintain healthy development, and reduce the risk of disease and misdiagnosis. It offers a low-cost, non-pharmaceutical, and sustainable path to supporting both physical and mental health.

Food As Medicine also helps educate our communities about the importance of proper nutrition and the long-term harm caused by heavily processed and artificially infused foods that negatively impact health. The importance of this initiative is greater now than ever before.

I respectfully urge the committee to support and pass H8171.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Krystal

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