

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Ocean State Center for Independent Living (OSCIL), and as a constituent from Cumberland9, I write in strong support of H8171, the Food As Medicine Pilot Program Act.

Founded in 1988, OSCIL is RI's Go-To resource center for disability services, resources and information, for disabled Rhode Islanders. Our mission is to work with individuals to become full participants in their community. We provide advocacy, peer support, Youth Transition, Nursing Home Transition & independent Living skills training. We are cross disability and work throughout the state of RI.

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

At OSCIL, every day we hear from the individuals we serve how difficult it is to stretch their monthly budget to pay for food, housing, utilities and healthcare needs on a fixed, low income. Many face the hard decisions of what bills to pay during the month. This pilot program is a good start toward demonstrating the beneficial impacts a program like this can have here in RI.

in conclusion, OSCIL is in support of bill H8171. Thank you for your consideration and continued leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,
Beth Pinkham
Associate Director



Beth Pinkham (She/Her)

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