

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Committee,

As an East Greenwich, Rhode Island constituent focused on improving health outcomes in our state, I write in strong support of H8171, the Food As Medicine Pilot Program Act.

My name is Christina Pitney and I serve as the Board Chair and President of Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island.

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.

As someone who works hard to improve health outcomes and reduce the cost of healthcare in this state, I am excited about the opportunity to advance food is medicine strategies. Food and nutrition are critical components to [+housefinance@rilegislature.gov](mailto:housefinance@rilegislature.gov) the health equation and ensuring our community members are getting the right food and nutrients aligned with their health needs, is critical to improving their health trajectory. This task force has a great opportunity to drive significant health impact for the state's Medicaid population. Others will learn from the task force and there will be opportunities to expand the work broadly to all populations.

I respectfully urge the committee to support and pass H8171.

Sincerely,

Christina Pitney

Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island, Board Chair & President