



David Dadekian
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1061 Fish Hill Road
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Testimony in support of H 8171

May 13, 2026

Honorable Chairperson Abney and the members of the House Committee on Finance:

I am the founder and president of Eat Drink RI, one of the top media and marketing companies in the region for all things culinary. As an advocate for our food system, a small business owner who wants to see our state's food and drink economy thrive, and as a citizen concerned about our changing climate and food insecurity, **I strongly support H 8171.**

A Food As Medicine Medicaid pilot program focuses on improving health outcomes and reducing long-term healthcare costs through access to nutritious meals. For many Rhode Islanders living with chronic illness, food is not just a personal choice, it is a major factor in health, recovery, and quality of life.

Thank you to Representative Caldwell and her co-sponsors on H 8171. Respectfully, I urge you to pass H 8171 forward to the full House for passage this session. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David S. Dadekian". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

David Dadekian