

Re: Support for S2892/H8171 – Relating to Health and Safety – Food As Medicine Pilot Program

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of myself and as a constituent from Bristol, I write in strong support of H8171, the Food As Medicine Pilot Program Act. I am a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist that has worked in public health for the last 18 years. During this time, I have seen various initiatives around Food is Medicine in Rhode Island, along with their positive effects.

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. It will allow for cohesive and collaborative efforts to bring together various partners around the state who contribute to Food is Medicine work to help shape a healthier community in Rhode Island. I respectfully urge the committee to support and pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Kate Balestracci, PhD, RDN