

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of myself, and as a constituent from Cranston, I write in strong support of H8171, the Food As Medicine Pilot Program Act. I am a retired senior who is a strong advocate and donor for Meals on Wheels, a critical and very important program. I am blessed and fortunate that I am able to provide and cook my own meals but for many Rhode Islanders living with a chronic illness, food is not just a personal choice, it is a major factor in health, recovery, and quality of life.

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.

I respectfully urge the committee to support and pass H8171.

Sincerely,

Pia Vartabedian