

May 19, 2026

Re: Support for H7631

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing you in support of H7631, a bill that would eliminate the asset limits (\$9950 for a single person and \$14,910 for a couple) from the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) eligibility requirement. As you know, the Medicare Savings Program helps lower-income persons on Medicare pay for the Part B Medicare premium.

It is really important for an individual or family to have some minimal assets set aside for rainy day emergencies like a car that breaks down or a roof that needs repair. It just doesn't seem to make sense to force impoverished people to be at even more risk by forcing them to use up their emergency funds before they can qualify to get help with their medical insurance payments.

The cost of living has been going up for all of us, but it especially impacts lower income people. They need all the help they can get. Eliminating the MSP asset limits would save lower income elders about \$2400 a year, money that they need for food and rent payments, among other necessities.

Our New England neighbor states - Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Maine – have already eliminated the MSP asset limits. Can't we also provide this protection for our lower income elders? Additionally, eliminating the MSP asset limits helps qualify more Rhode Island elders for the Federal Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidy, saving the lower-income elder an additional \$5300 per year. This is without any additional cost to the State of Rhode Island.

I urge you to support our lower-income elders by supporting H7631. Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,
Kamila Barzykowski
49 Castle Rocks Rd, Warwick RI 02886