

TO: Chairwoman Alzate and Members of the House Special Legislation Committee
CC: Representative Seth Magaziner
FROM: Amy Ottilige
RE: Support for [H7230](#)
DATE: March 17, 2026

Chairwoman Alzate and Honorable Members of the House Special Legislation Committee:
My name is Amy Ottilige and I live in Warwick.
I am writing to urge you to support [H7230](#) (McGaw), which would declare the month of May as "Native Plant Month".

I have been advocating the use of plants native to New England for several years as a commissioner on the Warwick Wildlife and Conservation Commission. In my experience as a conservation speaker, I can vouch for the positive effects created by legislative support promoting the use of native plants and avoiding non-natives.

From the USDA: There are many benefits of landscaping and gardening with native plants including conserving water, protecting soil from erosion, and creating habitat and providing food for many different animals including birds, pollinators, and small mammals. Simply by growing native plants gardeners can bring enormous beauty to a community and joy to its residents. In addition, native plants are easy-to-grow and require minimal maintenance. Please pass this bill out of committee and to the House floor with a recommendation for passage.

Sincerely,
Amy Ottilige
Warwick, RI