



March 17, 2026

The Honorable Karen Alzate, Chair
House Committee on Special Legislation
State House, 82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903
via email: Rep-Alzate@rilegislature.gov
via email: HouseSpecialLegislation@rilegislature.gov

Re: H-7665 – An Act Relating to Holidays and Days of Special Observance – Days of Special Observance

Dear Chairwoman Alzate:

I write today in support of H-7665 – An Act Relating to Holidays and Day of Special Observance, which was introduced at the request of the Office of Healthy Aging and would designate each September as “Rhode Island Senior Center Month.” Senior centers are recognized by the Older Americans Act as a community focal point and have become one of the most widely used services among America’s older adults. Today’s senior centers are connecting older adults with meaningful work and volunteer opportunities and increasing their access to valuable benefits and resources. Through evidence-based programs, older adults are managing their health and finances, so they can continue to live independently in their own homes as long as possible. And they are doing this in a highly social setting. Senior centers power connections, and they are evolving to reflect a new view of aging that empowers the people they serve.

Rhode Island is one of 11 states where older adults, aged 65 and older, outnumber children under the age of 18. Over 24 percent of Rhode Island’s population are aged 60 and older, surpassing national averages and highlighting a significant demographic shift. Senior centers are key community partners responding to that demographic shift. Recognizing each September as “Rhode Island Senior Center Month” provides an opportunity to showcase these centers and the valuable programs, activities, and services they provide.

As always, I thank you for your partnership and consideration of this letter. Your leadership and advocacy for Rhode Island’s older adults, adults living with disabilities, and their families are appreciated.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria E. Cimini".

Maria E. Cimini
Director

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Special Legislation
The Honorable Lauren H. Carson
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel for the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy