



**RHODE ISLAND LEAGUE
OF CITIES AND TOWNS**

*Distinctive Communities
Powerful Alliance*

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley, Chair
House State Government and Elections
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: HOUSE BILL 7496 – AN ACT RELATING TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY -- JOINT COMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATIVE SERVICES**

Chair Shanley and Honorable Committee Members,

The Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns respectfully submits this testimony in support of House Bill 7496, which advances the interests of older Rhode Islanders by adding a representative of an aging adult organization to the State Planning Council and establishing a permanent Committee on Aging. The bill also requires the Long-Term Care Coordinating Council to review and make recommendations for reform of its governing statute, updates its quorum to twelve members, and modernizes terminology by eliminating less-preferred terms related to older adults and persons with disabilities.

We thank the bill sponsor for her continued leadership and dedication through the Special Legislative Commission to Study and Provide Recommendations Pertaining to Services and Coordination of State Programs Relating to Older Adult Rhode Islanders. As highlighted in the Commission's work, Rhode Island's older adult population continues to grow. Currently, nearly 20% of Rhode Island residents are age 65 or older, and projections indicate that by 2030, roughly one in four Rhode Islanders will be age 65 or older. This demographic shift underscores the importance of ensuring strong advocacy, representation, and planning for older adults at the state level.

Adding a dedicated representative of a statewide aging and advocacy organization to the State Planning Council will strengthen oversight, coordination, and responsiveness of state programs serving this population. The League supports measures that enhance representation, planning, and long-term care coordination for older Rhode Islanders and appreciates the sponsor's ongoing efforts to strengthen these structures.

Thank you for consideration of our perspective.

Sincerely,

Randy R. Rossi
Executive Director

Cc: Honorable Members of House State Government and Elections Committee