



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

RIVETS

OFFICE OF VETERANS SERVICES

Daniel J. McKee **Governor**

Kasim J. Yarn **Director**

May 13, 2021

The Honorable Samuel Azzinaro
Chair, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
via email: rep-azzinaro@rilegislature.gov
via email: HouseVeteransAffairs@rilegislature.gov

RE: H-6286 An Act Relating to Military Affairs and Defense – Rhode Island Veterans Home

Dear Chairman Azzinaro:

I write today with respect to H-6286, which would remove the war Veteran requirement and replace it with the requirement for the Administrator at the Rhode Island Veterans Home to be an honorably discharged Veteran. The Rhode Island Veterans Home serves as a testament to our State's appreciation for all Rhode Islanders who have served in the armed forces. We remain steadfast in our commitment to providing Veterans Home residents an environment that is safe and healthy, with a dedicated staff providing compassionate and quality care led by a nursing home administrator.

As with many positions in the long-term care industry, nursing home administrators are in-demand, with a high turn-over rate, many colleges closing their nursing home administrator programs, and an exodus of qualified nursing home administrators from the long-term care industry during the COVID-19 pandemic. Lessening of restrictions for the Rhode Island Veterans Home Administrator would allow for a wider pool of candidates who are still honorably discharged Veterans.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter and for your leadership and advocacy for Rhode Island Veterans and their families.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. J. Yarn".

Kasim J. Yarn
Director

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Nicole McCarthy, Esquire, Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House