



January 29, 2026

Dear Chair Donovan and Members of House Health and Human Services Committee,

Re: Support for H7279

The Senior Agenda Coalition of RI (SACRI) enthusiastically supports H7279 to extend the reporting and expiration dates for the Special Legislative Commission to Study and Provide Recommendations Pertaining to Services and Coordination of State Programs Relating to Older Adult Rhode Islanders.

As SACRI'S mission is to mobilize people to implement an agenda that improves the quality of life of older Rhode Islanders and adults with disabilities, we view the work of this Commission as enormously important especially as older adults are projected to soon represent one out of four persons and policies impacting their health and welfare deserve greater attention. I and SACRI Policy Advisor Maureen Maigret have been privileged to be members of the Commission. We are impressed with the thoughtful work being done by the Commission under Chairwoman Carson's commitment and outstanding leadership. Chair Carson has brought entities in the public and private sectors before the Commission in order to provide a comprehensive overview of the demographics of our state's growing older population and the programs and services currently available to support them. Equally important she has reached out to other states to learn of best practices in older adult programming and in designing a Multi-sector State Plan on Aging. We are confident that continuing the life of the CHHcommission is warranted as it continues to identify ways and means for addressing service gaps, ensuring greater equity for older adults and furthering the state's commitment to programs and services that allow older adults to thrive no matter whether living at home and the community or in residential/institutional settings.

Thank you for your consideration of SACRI's support to extent the work of this vital Special Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Anne Costa, Executive Director
SACRI