



STATE of RHODE ISLAND
Executive Department
GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
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Legislative Impact Statement

To: Representative Donovan, Chair House Health & Human Services Committee
From: Elisabeth Hubbard, Executive Secretary
Re: 26 House 7542 AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY – RHODE ISLAND PROGRAM TO ADDRESS ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Thursday, March 19, 2026

The Governor's Commission on Disabilities' Legislation Committee has developed a Legislative Impact Statement on the bill listed below. The Commission would be pleased to present testimony to the committee. Please contact me (462-0110) if testimony is desired or for additional information.

We are writing in support of this bill, which would establish a position for a state employee at the Rhode Island Department of Health to coordinate research, training, outreach, and education regarding Alzheimer's disease and other dementia-related disorders.

Alzheimer's disease and other dementia-related disorders have been and will continue to be a concern for our state.

The Department of Health has created a plan to help address dementia, but at this time we do not have a role to implement it. The plan includes strategies for prevention as well as how to ensure the best possible care for people with dementia and support for their caregivers. We believe this plan will be highly beneficial to the state, but only if it is implemented. This bill would provide the staff person needed to oversee the plan's administration.

We hope you will pass this bill, and we at the Commission look forward to working with the future dementia services coordinator.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.