



RI Department of Health
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TTY: 771
www.health.ri.gov

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan, Chair
House Committee on Health and Human Services
State House
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H 7542 – An Act Relating to Health and Safety – Rhode Island Program to Address Alzheimer’s Disease

Dear Chair Donovan:

Please accept this letter regarding H 7542, legislation that would create the position of Dementia Services Coordinator within the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) to coordinate RIDOH’s approach to Alzheimer’s Disease and other forms of dementia.

Please be informed that RIDOH’s Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD) Program is funded by CDC in the amount of \$500,000 per year. RIDOH is currently in year three of a five-year funding cycle that ends in September 2028. This funding covers a full-time Program Manager/Coordinator who is responsible for all aspects of the program. This individual currently performs many of the duties that the proposed Dementia Services Coordinator would perform and would oversee the new position.

If a position in addition to that of the current Program Manager/Coordinator position is desired, the annual cost would be \$157,315 annually, not including future increases in salary and fringe.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome M. Larkin".

Jerome M. Larkin, MD
Director

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services
The Honorable Julie A. Casimiro
Nicole McCarty, Chief Legal Counsel
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy