

Steven Sepe

From: Sandra Darling <sandradarling47@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 3:07 PM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee; June Speakman; Sen. Lauria, Pamela J.
Subject: House Bill #7542

Chairwoman Donovan and members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

I write to you in **support** of HB# 7542 which creates the position of dementia services coordinator within the department of health to coordinate the departments' approach to Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.

This Dementia Coordinator position will join with 33 other States to coordinate the department's approach to addressing Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia including, but not limited to, public awareness, prevention, and early detection.

There are 24,000 Rhode Islanders living with Alzheimer's. 11.4% of Rhode Islanders over 65 have Alzheimer's disease. Creating this position can result in successful implementation of the State's Alzheimer's plans which will help families in Rhode Island navigate the care for those afflicted with Alzheimers and other types of dementia.

I urge your support for HB #7542

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