

March 24, 2026

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

Re: Support H.8246

Dear Chairperson Donovan and Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,
My name is Stephen Alves, and I am writing in **strong support of H 8246.**

Early lung cancer screenings allowed me to keep fighting and dramatically improved my overall prognosis in battling this disease. Early detection saves lives. Because my cancer was caught early through screening, I have been able to fight this disease successfully for nearly 10 years. I know firsthand how life changing, and life saving, access to these screenings can be.

Unfortunately, less than 30% of all lung cancer cases are caught in the early stages. I was fortunate to be in a position where I could afford the cost of screening, but not everyone is afforded that same opportunity. No one's chance at survival should depend on whether they can pay out of pocket for an early screening.

Passing this legislation will help further close that gap and ensure more Rhode Islanders have access to the screenings that can save their lives. Rhode Island is ranked number one nationally in early detection screenings, and that leadership has directly helped many Rhode Islanders like myself fight this disease with more hope and better outcomes.

I urge you to support this important legislation so that more people have the same chance I was given — the chance for early detection, effective treatment, and more time with their loved ones.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Stephen Alves