



TOWN OF COVENTRY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
50 Wood Street Coventry, RI 02816

April 28, 2026

**Rhode Island General Assembly
Health and Human Services-Rhode Island Legislature
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903**

Re: Support for H-8402

Dear Members of the General Assembly,

Please accept this letter in support of H-8402 Delivering Accountability and Better Outcomes for Rhode Island's Older Adults.

I have worked in the aging sector for 30 plus years and have served on the Rhode Island Commission on Aging, the House Commission on Older Adult Services, the Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Commission as well as being the President of the Rhode Island Senior Center Directors Association. Advocacy and coordinated services are a strong focus in my daily work as a Director of a Municipal Senior Center and Department of Human Services.

I strongly support building a coordinated, Multi-Sector Plan on Aging for Rhode Island, ensuring that all parts of government and key partners work together to meet the needs of Rhode Island's growing older population (the fastest growing segment of Rhode Island's population). Making a permanent Commission on Older Adults makes sense as we holistically look at the needs of older Rhode Islanders over the next several decades.

H-8402 Requires cross-agency coordination across health, housing, transportation, and economic development. It establishes standardized reporting to support a unified aging

strategy. creating accountability and oversight to ensure real progress. It provides transparent, public data on outcomes for older adults and ultimately aligns state efforts with a comprehensive, long-term aging plan.

There are key advantages of a Multi-Sector Plan; Aging Touches Every System: Older adults don't just rely on healthcare—they depend on housing, transportation, workforce supports, and community services. Siloed Services will be broken down since today's services are fragmented across agencies. A multi-sector plan ensures coordination instead of duplication and gaps.

Rhode Island's aging population requires a long-term, data-driven strategy, not piecemeal solutions.

A unified plan positions Rhode Island to better compete for federal funding and align private investment. Thus, Leveraging Federal and Private Resources.

With H-8402 we will see real world impact. Seamless access to services that support independence and quality of life for older adults. Easier navigation of a coordinated system for families and caregivers and more efficient use of resources and stronger long-term planning for the state

H8402 moves Rhode Island from a fragmented system to a coordinated, multi-sector approach to aging—ensuring every agency and partner is working toward the same goals. I cannot more strongly support this bill as it opens our future to include older adults in impacting their own daily lives.

Please feel free to contact me at rrobillard@coventryri.gov or (401) 822-9127 if you require any further information

Sincerely,



**Robert N. Robillard Jr., LMHC
Director
Town of Coventry Department of Human Services
Coventry Resource and Senior Center**