RHODE ISLAND OFFICE OF
HealthyAging

May 28, 2026

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan, Chairwoman
House Committee on Health and Human Services
State House, 82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903
via email: Rep-Donovan@rilegislature.gov

Re: H-8402 Sub A – An Act Relating to Human Services – Permanent Joint Study Commission on Aging and Multi-Sector Plan on Aging

Dear Chairwoman Donovan:

Please accept this letter regarding H-8402, which is being reconsidered in committee as a Substitute A. The legislation would make permanent the Study Commission on Aging, and charge the commission with guiding, developing, and overseeing the implementation of a Rhode Island multi-sector plan on aging. While the Office of Healthy Aging appreciates the intent of this legislation, the agency has concerns about the additional responsibilities created by the bill without accompanying funding or staffing support.

States across the country are implementing multi-sector plans for aging to support and prepare for their growing older adult population. The Office of Healthy Aging (OHA) was pleased to participate in Chairwoman Carson's planning committee, which had been awarded technical assistance by the Center for Health Care Strategies in engaging stakeholders and consumers while exploring implementation of a multi-sector plan on aging. OHA applauds efforts to develop a multi-sector plan on aging for Rhode Island; however, our agency cannot facilitate the work without appropriate resources.

As always, I thank you for your partnership and consideration of the concerns raised in this letter. Your leadership and advocacy for Rhode Island's older adults, adults living with disabilities, and their families are appreciated.

Regards,

Maria E. Cimini

Maria E. Cimini
Director

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services
The Honorable Lauren H. Carson
Danica Iacoi, Chief of Staff and Special Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House