



State of Rhode Island
Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos

May 28, 2026

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

Re: Letter of Support for H8545 and H8568: An Act Relating To Health And Safety -- Rhode Island Program To Address Alzheimer's Disease

Dear Chair Donovan:

I write to you in support of H8545 and H8568: An Act Relating To Health And Safety -- Rhode Island Program To Address Alzheimer's Disease. H8545 amends law to include all licensed physician assistants with licensed physicians and nurses required, each license renewal period, to complete a minimum of 1 hour of instruction on the diagnosis treatment, and care of patients with cognitive impairments. H8568 amends the current law on Alzheimer's care by enacting a specific list of protocols to be followed and those healthcare facilities subject to the law.

As the Chair of the Long-Term Care Coordinating Council, I work with institutional partners throughout the state to address the long-term care needs of older Rhode Islanders living with Alzheimer's. According to the Alzheimer's Association, there are roughly 22,000 people over the age of 65 living with Alzheimer's in Rhode Island. Representing roughly 11.4% of older adults in our state, it is crucial that we as a state take steps to guarantee their care. Taken together, these bills will strengthen the quality and availability of care by requiring more people within the long-term care system are trained to identify and provide services for people with Alzheimer's.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote this bill favorably out of committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabina Matos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sabina Matos

Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor

CC: Representative Mia Ackerman