



March 31, 2026

Dear Chair DiPalma and Members, Senate Finance Committee,

**Re: Support for S2816**

SACRI strongly supports S2816, a Joint Resolution sponsored by Senators DiPalma, Valverde, Lauria and Urso, to appropriate \$118,422 to RIPIN. The funding would provide state match to continue to operate the ombudsman program for Rhode Islanders who are eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare – the so-called “Duals.” Since 2016 RIPIN has operated the ombudsman program for “duals” helping over 20,000 persons to understand and navigate complex and changing enrollment requirements, to assist with duals with enrollment issues, provider disputes and service denials.

Since the beginning of 2018, the RIPIN dual ombudsman program has helped clients save more than \$2.1Million in health care costs and has a 97% satisfaction rate. Unfortunately, despite such impressive results, funding to continue the program was not included in Governor McKee’s proposed budget.

It is projected that the requested \$118,422 in general revenue would be matched with federal Medicaid administrative matching funds.

We urge you to consider acting favorably on this Resolution so that the hundreds of enrollees in Rhode Island health plans serving “duals” will continue to benefit from the assistance and expertise offered by the RIPIN dual ombudsman program.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Respectfully submitted,

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