

May 26, 2026

Senate Finance Committee

State of Rhode Island General Assembly

82 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02908

Dear Chairman DiPalma and Members of the Committee,

I am pleased to provide this letter to enthusiastically support Senate resolution 3312 to appropriate additional funds to the Eat Well, Be Well retail SNAP incentive pilot program.

This SNAP incentive doubles the value of the dollar for SNAP users when they purchase fresh produce. SNAP incentives encourage healthier eating by making healthy food more affordable for SNAP participants.

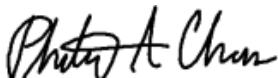
SNAP incentives are a proven method to promote healthy eating behaviors for people of low socioeconomic status. They can lead to healthy eating behaviors that reduce the burden of food related chronic disease such as obesity, metabolic syndrome, and diabetes. Rates of these chronic diseases are particularly high among SNAP participants.

In Rhode Island, chronic disease rates, particularly obesity, have been on the rise across virtually all age groups in recent years. These trends disproportionately impact low-income individuals (i.e. SNAP eligible populations). According to the Rhode Island Department of Health, 36% of people living in households making less \$25,000 are struggling with obesity. This has coincided with rising food insecurity, defined as the limited ability to obtain nutritionally adequate food, across the state as well.

We need to engage in long-term solutions to improve healthy food access for our SNAP populations, to avoid poor chronic disease outcomes. In its pilot stage, Eat Well, Be Well proved itself to a highly impactful piece of this puzzle, and we are in full support of its continuation.

I encourage the members of the committee and the Senate to pass this bill to keep investing in the long-term health and equitable food access in our state.

Sincerely,



Dr. Philip Chan

Chief Medical Officer

Rhode Island Public Health Institute/Open Door Health