



May 26, 2026

The Honorable Louis P. DiPalma
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee
State of Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for S3312

Chairman DiPalma and members of the committee:

Family Service of Rhode Island (FSRI) is pleased to support **Senate Resolution 3312**, which would provide funding to continue Rhode Island's successful Eat Well, Be Well retail SNAP incentive program beyond its pilot phase.

At FSRI, we work alongside children and families every day and understand the pressures many parents face when trying to provide healthy meals while balancing rising costs for housing, childcare, transportation and other essentials. Families should not have to choose between affordability and nutrition, particularly during the earliest years of a child's life, when healthy eating habits and access to nutritious foods can have a lasting impact on development and long-term health.

The Eat Well, Be Well program is a practical, low-barrier solution that helps make healthy choices more accessible. By automatically increasing the purchasing power of SNAP benefits when families buy fresh fruits and vegetables, the program helps parents stretch their budgets while putting nutritious foods within easier reach.

Since its launch in 2024, Eat Well, Be Well has helped more than 100,000 families save \$10 million when purchasing healthy food. With buy-in from both Stop & Shop and Walmart, this is a great example of an effect public-private partnership that benefits Rhode Islanders in need.

At a time when many Rhode Island families continue to face economic uncertainty and increasing costs, the continuation of this program represents an investment in both immediate food security and the long-term health of our communities. Any time we have an opportunity to make it easier to raise a healthy family in Rhode Island, we should take it.

FSRI strongly supports the continuation of the Eat Well, Be Well program, and appreciates Senate President Lawson putting forth this resolution and her commitment to child well-being and community health. We urge the Committee to approve funding to ensure Rhode Islanders can continue benefiting from this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margaret Holland McDuff', written in a cursive style.

Margaret Holland McDuff
CEO