

May 26, 2026

Senate Finance Committee

State of Rhode Island General Assembly

82 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02908

Dear members of the Senate Finance Committee:

In both my capacity as an engaged Rhode Islander and as the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Rhode Island Public Health Institute, I am pleased to write in support of Senate Resolution 3312, which would provide funding to support the continuation of Rhode Island's statewide Eat Well, Be Well retail SNAP incentive program.

Since its launch in 2024, this pilot program has provided families who rely on SNAP benefits with \$.50 in additional benefits for every \$1 spent on fresh fruits and vegetables at participating grocery stores. SNAP beneficiaries are automatically enrolled in the program; the additional benefits automatically apply at checkout; and households can earn up to \$25 per month in additional benefits.

To date, the program has touched more than 140,000 Rhode Islanders across 106,000 households. According to an evaluation led by the Rhode Island Public Health Institute, an independent nonprofit organization whose Board of Directors I am proud to chair, 70% of users reported Eat Well, Be Well actively helped them buy more fruits and vegetables for their children over the course of its pilot.

With buy-in from both Stop & Shop and Walmart (the program is available at all of their respective Rhode Island locations), Eat Well, Be Well is an ideal example of an effective public-private partnership that makes a real, tangible impact in the lives of Rhode Islanders.

With plenty of budget challenges on the horizon, Rhode Island should be in the business of investing in proven, tried-and-tested programs that we know will make a difference. Funding for the Eat Well, Be Well program proposed in Senate Resolution 3312 fits the bill.

Thank you to Senate President Val Lawson for introducing this resolution, and thank you to the Committee for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Lisa Carcieri
Chair, Board of Director
Rhode Island Public Health Institute