



May 26, 2026

Dear Chairman DiPalma and members of the Committee:

The Rhode Island Alliance of YMCAs is pleased to support Senate Resolution 3312, which would provide funding to continue Rhode Island's Eat Well, Be Well retail SNAP incentive program beyond its pilot phase.

At our YMCAs, we work closely with Rhode Islanders navigating a range of challenges that can make it difficult to maintain stability and wellbeing. Consistent access to healthy, nutritious food is foundational to individual and family health, yet for many households, rising costs continue to put fresh foods out of reach.

Food insecurity impacts every aspect of a person's life. Difficulty affording nutritious meals can contribute to poorer health outcomes, increased stress and additional barriers to achieving long-term stability. Programs that help families stretch their budgets while improving access to healthy foods are meaningful investments in both immediate needs and future wellbeing.

The Eat Well, Be Well program provides a practical, low-barrier way for SNAP participants to purchase more fresh fruits and vegetables by increasing the value of their benefits at participating retailers. Its automatic enrollment and straightforward design make healthy choices easier and more affordable for Rhode Islanders who need support.

We recognize that meeting basic needs is often the first step toward stronger outcomes for individuals, children and families. Efforts that make healthy food more accessible help strengthen communities and support the long-term health of Rhode Islanders across our state.

For these reasons, the RI Alliance of YMCAs strongly supports continued funding for the Eat Well, Be Well program and urges the Committee to approve this important investment.

Sincerely,

Erlin Rogel
Manager of Government Relations
Rhode Island Alliance of YMCAs