



May 26, 2026

Dear Chairman DiPalma and Members of the Committee:

As one of the two retail partners to participate in the Eat Well, Be Well program in Rhode Island, Stop & Shop is pleased to support Senate Resolution 3312, which would provide funding to keep this effective program active beyond its pilot phase.

Eat Well, Be Well is an innovative, highly effective public-private partnership designed to make fresh fruits and vegetables more affordable for Rhode Islanders who rely on SNAP benefits. The program automatically provides SNAP users with 50 cents in additional benefits for every \$1 they spend on fresh fruits and vegetables at participating grocery stores across the state. This helps local families stretch their monthly grocery budgets while also incentivizing them to make healthier consumer choices.

Stop & Shop is proud that all 25 of our Rhode Island locations participate in this program. During the program's implementation process, we were able to work with the State and other partners to develop a seamless system that allows eligible customers to access additional benefits automatically at checkout with minimal barriers. After the initial groundwork to invest in the development and implementation of the necessary in-store technology, the program has operated smoothly with minimal need for ongoing technical support or intervention. In many ways, the challenges related to the program are already behind us. The infrastructure is in place, retailers have adapted their systems, and customers are becoming more familiar with the program's design.

In its pilot stage, Eat Well, Be Well proved itself to be an in-demand and impactful tool in Rhode Island's efforts to address food insecurity. Additionally, with overall cuts in the last year to the SNAP program, the Eat Well, Be Well program offers Rhode Islanders with an additional avenue by which they can stretch their dollars while also making healthier decisions.



We believe efforts that improve access to nutritious foods deserve continued support. We applaud Senate leadership for introducing this resolution and for Senator Lawson's leadership on this issue, and we encourage the Committee to approve funding to sustain the Eat Well, Be Well program and continue expanding its positive impact for Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M O'Brien".

Maura O'Brien

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Government Affairs

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