

From: [Michelle Machado](#)
To: [S Legislation](#)
Cc: [Sen. Murray, Melissa A.](#)
Subject: Testimony in Support of S2378
Date: Monday, April 27, 2026 5:15:11 PM

You don't often get email from mmachado035@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Honorable Chair Murray and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Michelle Machado. I respectfully submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill S2378. This legislation makes a critical and long-overdue update to resource and asset limits that currently prevent many Rhode Islanders from accessing essential support. Under existing rules, individuals are often limited to approximately \$4,000 in countable resources (\$6,000 for couples), thresholds that have not kept pace with the cost of living. S2378 proposes increasing these limits to more realistic levels, such as \$12,000 for individuals and \$18,000 for couples, ensuring that people are not forced into poverty to qualify for basic assistance.

As a person living with a disability, I can speak directly to the impact these outdated limits have. The current cap effectively forces individuals like me to remain in a constant state of financial insecurity. It makes it nearly impossible to save for emergencies, unexpected medical expenses, or even basic life needs without risking the loss of critical benefits. This creates a system where people are punished for trying to be responsible. The proposed increase in resource limits would provide a measure of stability and dignity, allowing individuals with disabilities to maintain a small safety net without fear of losing access to healthcare and essential support. It would reduce stress, improve health outcomes, and make it more feasible to pursue greater independence.

S2378 strengthens community well-being, promotes equity, and supports long-term self-sufficiency by aligning policy with our economic conditions. By updating these limits, the bill acknowledges that financial stability and access to care should go hand in hand, not be at odds.

Although I understand that this legislation applies specifically to Medicaid-funded long-term care services, including Home & Community Based Care, many Medicaid beneficiaries seeking long-term care also rely on rental assistance or Section 8, with their own guidelines. If the state wants to keep pace with our neighboring states on HBCS eligibility, it should further examine housing eligibility so the two align.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to support S2378. This legislation represents a meaningful step toward a more humane and effective system that respects the dignity and realities of Rhode Islanders living with disabilities and others in need of support.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Michelle Machado
East Providence, RI 02914

.

