



April 27, 2026

Dear Chairperson Murray and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee

On behalf of the Ocean State Center for Independent Living (OSCIL), I am writing in support of House Bill S2378, which would increase access to Home & Community Based Services, and raise the asset limits to \$12,000 for individuals and \$18,000 for couples living at home.

Since 1988, OSCIL has worked to remove the physical and attitudinal barriers that prevent Rhode Islanders with disabilities from fully participating in their communities. Many our staff members and individuals that we serve participate in the Home and Community Based Medicaid Waivers our state operates.

First, S2378 aligns with the work currently being done to adopt and implement an Olmstead Plan in our state. individuals with disabilities want and ought to receive the Long Term n t and Services that they need in the least restrictive environment possible.

Second, with the on-going substantial increases in the cost of living, increasing the asset limits will help those participates living at home to stay there longer as there will be more money available to pay for household expenses that arise. It will help reduce the sense of systemic poverty that many feels as they are in the cycle of not being able to do much when they can only have \$2,000 or \$4,000 in the bank, and yet because Medicaid I the only option they have because commercial health insurance plas do not cover long term care services.

For these reasons, OSCIL respectfully urges the committee to support and pass S2378.

Thank you for your consideration and for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beth Pinkham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Beth Pinkham, Associate Director