

From: [Marianne Kelly](#)
To: [SLegislation](#); [Sen. Dimitri, Andrew R.](#)
Subject: SUPPORT for Senate Bill No. 2686 Entitled, An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government -- The Office of the Elder Advocate
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 9:58:49 AM

Senate Bill No. 2686 Entitled, An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government -- The Office of the Elder Advocate

Chairwoman Murray and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

I am writing to you today in support of Senate Bill No. 2686, which establishes an Office of the Elder Advocate to protect and advance the rights of older adults in Rhode Island.

While the Long-Term Care Ombudsman serves residents in licensed facilities, most older adults live independently and lack a centralized advocate when facing issues such as age discrimination, benefit denials, housing instability, or financial exploitation.

S2686 fills this critical gap by creating a dedicated office to support older adults across all living settings. It provides assistance with complex systems, addresses individual complaints, and brings attention to broader patterns of abuse.

Financial exploitation is one of the fastest-growing threats to older adults, particularly those living alone or with cognitive decline. This office would play a vital role in prevention, response, and accountability.

I respectfully urge you to support Senate Bill No. 2686. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marianne Kelly
Johnston, RI