



State of Rhode Island
Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos

April 7, 2026

The Hon. Melissa Murray
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
82 Smith Street, Senate Lounge
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Letter of Support for S2686: An Act Relating To State Affairs And Government -- The Office Of The Elder Advocate

Dear Chair Murray:

I write to you in strong support of S2686: An Act Relating To State Affairs And Government -- The Office Of The Elder Advocate. This bill establishes the office of the elder advocate to promote the rights of older adults in Rhode Island.

As the Chair of the Long-Term Care Coordinating Council, I work with older adults across the state to identify resources and opportunities for collaboration between the state and service providers. We hold monthly resource fairs at senior centers across Rhode Island, where we hear directly from older adults about their needs. I am incredibly grateful for the work that these services providers do so that our state's older adults receive the care and attention they deserve and need.

But there is more that we need to do. Older adults continue to face unique inequities in our system that demand deliberate action. The Office of the Elder Advocate will be under the charge of person qualified by training and experience in legal matters pertaining to elder rights, government benefits, elder abuse and neglect, and guardianship.

I look forward to seeing this bill passed and working alongside the future Elder Advocate through my work on the Long-Term Care Coordinating Council to continue to ensure that all older adults in our state get the care they deserve. For these reasons, I urge you to vote this bill favorably out of committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sabina Matos".

Sabina Matos
Lieutenant Governor, State of Rhode Island
CC: Senator Mark McKenney