

From: Marianne Kelly <mkelly5915@ymail.com>

Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 12:57 PM

To: SLegislation <slegislation@rilegislature.gov>

Subject: SUPPORT for Senate Bill 2874 ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- RHODE ISLAND PROGRAM TO ADDRESS ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

RE: Senate Bill No. 2874 -- ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- RHODE ISLAND PROGRAM TO ADDRESS ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE {LC5719/1} -- Creates the position of dementia services coordinator within the department of health to coordinate the department's approach to Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.

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

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 2874, which would create the position of a Dementia Services Coordinator within the Rhode Island Department of Health to strengthen the state's response to Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.

This issue is deeply personal to me. Both my grandmother and my father lived with dementia, and like many families, we experienced firsthand how complex and overwhelming this disease can be—not only for the person living with dementia, but also for the family members and caregivers who support them.

As our population ages, the need for coordinated services, reliable information, and strong support systems will only continue to grow. Creating a Dementia Services Coordinator would help ensure that Rhode Island takes a coordinated and strategic approach to this growing public health challenge.

Rhode Island would join 33 other states that already have a permanent, state-funded Dementia Services Coordinator and have seen improved interagency coordination, more effective use of resources, and stronger implementation of their state Alzheimer's plans.

I respectfully urge this Committee to support Senate Bill 2874. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marianne Kelly

Johnston, RI