



State of Rhode Island
Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos

March 24, 2026

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

RE: SUPPORT for Joint Resolution S 3056 - TO AMEND THE MEDICAID SECTION 1115
DEMONSTRATION WAIVER REQUESTS AND RENEWALS

Dear Chair Murray:

As the Chair of the Rhode Island Long Term Care Coordinating Council, I am writing today to express my strong support for Joint Resolution S 3056. This resolution is a critical step forward in our ongoing efforts to ensure that Rhode Island's older adults and individuals with complex behavioral needs receive the high-quality care they deserve in the most appropriate and least restrictive settings possible.

Our state's long-term care system is currently facing a significant challenge: we have many "particularly complex" patients who remain stuck in acute care hospital beds because traditional skilled nursing facilities are often unequipped to manage their persistent, disruptive behaviors. This is not only a poor outcome for the individuals who are not in the therapeutic environment they need but it also creates a bottleneck in our healthcare system that drives up costs and reduces hospital capacity.

By authorizing the update to the behavioral health per-diem add-on program, S 3056 provides the financial and regulatory framework necessary to support specialized nursing facilities, ensure proper placement, and strengthen the Continuum of Care.

Protecting our seniors and vulnerable adults requires us to be proactive in how we fund and manage long-term care. This resolution ensures that Rhode Island remains a leader in compassionate, fiscally sustainable, and person-centered care. I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend passage of this joint resolution.

Sincerely,

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

Sabina Matos
Lieutenant Governor
State of Rhode Island