

The Honorable Senator Lou DiPalma
House of Senate
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Subject Line: **Support for H 6149 and S 0845 – Meals on Wheels Fund**

Re: *Senate Bill No. 0845 and House Bill No. 6145 – Relating to Human Services – Rhode Island Meals on Wheels Inc. Fund*

Dear Chairmen Abney and DiPalma,

As a supporter and in addition to having a former family member of a client with Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island, I'm writing to express my strong support for House Bill 6149 – Relating to Human Services – Rhode Island Meals on Wheels Inc. Fund.

This bill would establish a dedicated fund supported by voluntary taxpayer donations to help Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island continue providing essential services to older adults across the state. These funds would directly support meals, wellness checks, and social connections for individuals who are often isolated and at risk of going hungry.

In 2024, Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island served over 3,700 individuals, and the need continues to grow.

Meals on Wheels has helped one of my family members receive the vital home delivered meal when they were homebound and unable to care for themselves. I can't overstate how much these meals and visits mean to the people we serve. My aunt relied on Meals on Wheels, and the care she received meant the world to our family.

With rising food costs and an aging population, this bill comes at a critical time. Supporting it would help ensure that no Rhode Island senior goes hungry or feels forgotten.

Thank you for considering this important legislation. I urge you and the committee to support its passage.

Sincerely,
Phanida Phivilay

Johnston, RI