



**DONALD R. GREBIEN  
MAYOR**



May 7, 2024

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chair  
House Committee on Finance  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: HR 8196 - Support

Dear Chair Abney,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Resolution 8196, which would appropriate \$2,000,000 to the Elisha Project. As Mayor of Pawtucket, I am acutely aware of the challenges faced by our residents, particularly food insecurity, and I believe that this legislation is helpful in addressing this pressing issue as it would provide significant support to a trusted and well-run organization.

Pawtucket, like many communities across Rhode Island, has families who struggle with food insecurity at various times throughout the year. The Elisha Project, based in Pawtucket, has been dedicated to combatting food insecurity not only in our City but throughout the State. They play a vital role in providing essential support to those in need.

The Elisha Project is not merely a provider of food; it is a movement that brings together diverse communities through service, sharing, teaching, and learning. Its commitment to inclusivity and focus on serving all segments of our community, including children, veterans, and families, is commendable and aligns with the City's values of equity and compassion.

As the cost of living continues to rise, the demand for the Elisha Project's services is expected to increase as well. By appropriating funds to support its mission, we can ensure that it has the resources needed to meet the growing needs of our residents and continue making a positive impact in Pawtucket and beyond.

Since its inception, the Elisha Project has provided over twenty million meals to deserving families, demonstrating their significant contribution to our community. By supporting H 8196, we can strengthen these efforts and reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that no one goes hungry.

I urge you to pass H 8196. By doing so, we can make meaningful progress in addressing food insecurity and improving the well-being of those we serve. I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Grebien

CC: Members of the House Finance Committee