



May 1, 2004

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

Statement in Support of H7597 by Representative Tanzi

I am pleased to submit testimony on behalf of the Senior Agenda Coalition of RI in support of H7597. This Resolution would provide funding to continue the Hospital Care Transitions Initiative (HCTI) operated by RIPIN. The Senior Agenda Coalition of RI provides education and advocacy on policies and issues impacting older Rhode Islanders. Knowing seniors consistently tell us they prefer to remain at home when they need help with activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living, we actively promote programs that allow older persons to have options for receiving services at home. Among other efforts, we have advocated for balancing government funding for long term supports and services to provide more funding for home and community services and to increase eligibility for the Office of healthy Aging @Home Cost Share program.

The HCTI is a program that supports the homecare option. It is a joint EOHHS-RIPIN program started in 2021 with federal funding to help patients discharged from the hospital to the community with the intent of avoiding long term care nursing facility placements. Community Health Workers employed by RIPIN connect with patients and their families while a person is in the hospital to help arrange supports needed at home. 75% of the patients served have been successfully discharged home. This can help avoid persons who are admitted to nursing homes from spending down their resources and going on Medicaid which can cost the state \$65,000 a year. As a staunch supporter of providing options for persons to receive care at home when it is possible and safe, The Senior Agenda Coalition supports the request to add \$250,000 in state funds – to be matched by federal funds -- to the FY2025 program to continue this program.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maureen Maignet, Policy Advisor
Senior Agenda Coalition of RI