



March 31, 2025

The Honorable Representative Martin Abney  
House Finance Committee, Chair  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

*RE: Support for House Bill 5075- Governor's FY26 Budget - Office of Healthy Aging*

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Committee:

Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island (MOWRI) formally voices its support for the Governor's proposed FY2026 budget section for the Executive Office of Health and Human Services – Department of Human Services - Office of Healthy Aging that recommends \$630,000 for Meals on Wheels.

MOWRI is an organization dedicated to meeting the nutritional and social needs of those we serve so they can maintain safe and independent lifestyles. Since 1969, we have served more than 21-million home-delivered meals in Rhode Island and have helped tens of thousands of homebound older adults to experience improved health and safety at home.

The Home-Delivered Meal Program directly addresses the issues of food insecurity and social isolation that increase a homebound senior's risk for negative health outcomes and associated loss of independence. This program provides homebound older adults (age 60+) with a nutritious meal, life-saving wellness check and opportunity for socialization. By addressing multiple social determinants of health, the program gives older adults increased access to adequate nutrition and safety assurances while empowering them to age within their community.

Passage of this continued fiscal support for MOWRI's Home-Delivered Meal Program will ensure continued sustainable access to this needed community-based service. Please support this important budget article. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Meghan Grady  
Executive Director

CC: Christopher O'Brien, Committee Clerk