



# CITY OF PAWTUCKET

LEON A. MATHIEU SENIOR CENTER  
420 MAIN STREET  
PAWTUCKET, RHODE ISLAND 02860

## DIVISION OF SENIOR SERVICES



**DONALD R. GREBIEN**  
MAYOR

February 29, 2024

**MARY LOU MORAN**  
DIRECTOR

The Honorable Evan Shanley  
Chair, House Committee on State Government and Elections  
Room , Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: Support for H 7565 – 2024**

Dear Chairman Shanley,

I am writing to you today as a member of our state's Long Term Care Coordinating Council as the Designee from the RI Senior Center Directors Association in support of House Bill 7565. This bill, if passed, would significantly improve the Council's ability to develop and coordinate state policy concerning all forms of long-term health care for seniors and adults with chronic disabilities and illnesses.

The Long Term Care Coordinating Council is a public body tasked with providing state policymakers, including the House of Representatives, with information and recommendations on how our state can best serve our constituents who require significant care for chronic conditions. Statutorily, members are not able to participate remotely. This requirement makes it difficult for members to participate, especially those who are unable to travel to a meeting due to long term care issues of their own. By passing this bill, we can lift that requirement and ensure that representatives of the people the Council is meant to serve are able to fully participate in the meeting.

As structured, the Council requires an in-person meeting of 33 stakeholders from across the state, of which 17 members are needed to form a quorum. Because this is a meeting of a wide variety of stakeholders, including state officials, nonprofit leaders, working healthcare professionals, and consumers of the health services the council oversees, scheduling meetings around a quorum is a challenge. In turn, the progress of the Council is sometimes hampered when we are unable to approve minutes or take votes. This bill would bring the quorum requirement of the Council in line with other policy councils managed by the Lieutenant Governor and allow us to work more effectively.

The small changes proposed in this bill would, if enacted, have a large impact in our state's ability to develop and implement policies that would serve Rhode Island's long term care community. I strongly urge you to recommend passage of House Bill 7565 as introduced.

Sincerely,

  
Mary Lou Moran, Director

Leon Mathieu Senior Center / Pawtucket Division of Senior Services  
Designee RI Senior Center Directors Association to the RI Long Term Care Coordinating Council

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections  
The Honorable Mary Duffy Messier, Deborah Fellela, Barbara Ann Fenton-Fung, Katherine Kazarian,  
and Julie Casimiro, Nicole McCarty, Esq.

