



April 3, 2025

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley
Chair, House Committee on State Government and Elections
State House, 82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903
via email: Rep-Shanley@rilegislature.gov
via email: HouseStateGovernmentandElections@rilegislature.gov

RE: H-6125 – House Resolution Expressing Support for the LGBTQIA+ Community

Dear Chairman Shanley:

I write today in support of H-6125 – House Resolution Expressing Support for the LGBTQIA+ Community. The Office of Healthy Aging is committed to ensuring Rhode Island is a healthy and safe place to grow up and grow old for all residents.

Rhode Island Healthy Aging Data Report from UMASS Boston and Tufts Health Plan Foundation reports that the number of Rhode Islanders age 60+ who identify as LGBT increased thirty-five percent from 2016 to 2020. LGBTQIA+ older adults face unique challenges as they age, including social stigma, isolation and discrimination, and may experience disparities in healthcare access and economic security. Despite these disparities, LGBTQIA+ older adults are vital to our community, contributing their time, wisdom, and expertise.

The Office of Healthy Aging is the designated state unit on aging, and we are charged with advocating for laws, policies and investments that protect the health and safety of older adults and adults living with disabilities. By expressing support for Rhode Island's LGBTQIA+ population, together we can ensure our state remains a place that promotes healthy aging for all.

As always, I thank you for your partnership and consideration of this letter, and I urge the committee to support this bill. Your leadership and advocacy for Rhode Island's older adults and their families are appreciated.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria E. Cimini".

Maria E. Cimini
Director

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections
The Honorable Rebecca M. Kislak
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel for the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy