Senior
Agenda
Coalition
Of Rhode Island

A Beacon for RI's Aging Community

April 8, 2025

Dear Chair Shanley and Members House State Government and Elections Committee,

On behalf of the Senior Agenda Coalition of RI (SACRI) I am pleased to support, H6164, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL, introduced by Representatives Morales Ackerman, Kennedy, Azzinaro, McNamara, Bennett, Lima, Corvese and Giraldo on behalf of Attorney General Peter Nerhona.

SACRI'S mission is to mobilize people to implement an agenda that improves the quality of life of older Rhode Islanders and adults with disabilities. We accomplish this through *community organizing, public education, advocacy, and* legislative *action.* In thinking about improving *quality of life,* issues related to consumer protection are an important priority for SACRI especially when it comes to healthcare, financial exploitation and the vast amount of deceptive practices and scamming going on through the internet and our phones.

H6164 codifies into law a bureau of public protection led by an assistant attorney general to be made up of at least four units dedicated to consumer protection and antitrust enforcement, health care regulation and access, environmental protection and energy regulation, and the protection of civil rights.

As a former Deputy Director of Consumer Protection in the Rhode Island Office of Attorney General I know first-hand how important this Bureau is for our residents and how giving it new tools and investigative authority will help fill gaps in its current structure. Strengthening the Attorney General's Office to address low level of care in nursing homes for self-profit (an area our Coalition has been closely monitoring), surprise billing by healthcare providers, unsafe labor conditions and polluters threatening our health and safety are just some examples of ways passing this bill can further protect and assist Rhode Islanders.

I encourage you to consider recommending passage of the bill and thank you for your consideration.

CarolAnne Costa, Executive Director, SACRI