Dear Rhode Islanders:

As the 2019 legislative session begins, we are pleased to share information about the work of the legislatively mandated Aging in Community Subcommittee of Rhode Island's Long Term Care Coordinating Council and our 2019 advocacy priorities.

In recognition of the state's rapidly growing older population and research showing most older adults desire to stay living at home and in their communities for as long as possible, the 2014 legislature passed the law creating the Aging in Community Subcommittee. The law charged the Subcommittee with researching current programs, identifying support service gaps and developing an Aging in Community Strategic Plan available at www.ltgov.ri.gov/councils.

With the support of many members of the general assembly, we have made progress but much work remains. Our 2019 advocacy program builds on the work and successes we have had since the law passed.

Our progress to date - successfully advocated to:

- Restore $600,000 in state funds to support community senior centers/programs
- Enact the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) law to provide information about aging and long term care services to all Rhode Islanders
- Continue the RIPTA No Fare bus program
- Increase home care provider rates to help recruit and retain direct care staff
- Create state grant program to help persons afford Home Modifications that enable them to remain living at home

Our priorities for 2019:

- Continue No Fare bus program and develop elder transportation options
- Restore state funding for Elder Respite Services to address current wait list
- Ensure funding to fully develop the Aging and Disability Resource Center
- Expand eligibility for Elderly Affairs home/community care program
- Increase Temporary Caregiver Insurance program from 4 to 6 weeks

Sincerely,

Lt. Governor Daniel J. McKee, Co-Chair
Long Term Care Coordinating Council

Maureen Maigret, Chair
Aging in Community Subcommittee