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## **Testimony from Jocelyn Foye, Executive Director of The Womxn Project, in support of the Medicare Savings Program, S2399**

Dear Chair and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee:

I am writing today in complete support of S2399: Medicare Savings Program. This Bill expands an existing mechanism to improve healthcare coverage in RI for those with low incomes, often seniors and the most vulnerable of our Rhode Islanders.

The current Medicare Savings Program excludes people otherwise qualified for benefits if they have income in excess of \$20,331. This Bill will raise that limit to \$28,012. This will bring nearly 17,000 more of our neighbors into the Program. This Program utilizes Federal funding to cover the annual \$2100 Medicare Part B premiums, which cover copays and deductibles for those with the lowest incomes. This brings more people into a better healthcare system and saves them almost 10% of their income. That income can then be used to cover their normal cost of living.

S2399 represents an exceptional bill, letting RI bring better healthcare and increased income to those in the most need with the fewest resources while leveraging Federal funding to expand the program. Those in need benefit significantly and the cost to Rhode Islanders is very low. This kind of low-cost, high impact legislation is an uncommon opportunity to make the RI that much more equitable to those with the greatest needs. Please send S2399 to the floor for a vote this session.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jocelyn Foye  
Executive Director, The Womxn Project  
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