

HEALTHY AGING MARTHA'S VINEYARD

Making Martha's Vineyard an Aging-Friendly Island

May 28, 2021

Re: The Coalition to Create a MV Housing Bank

Greetings,

Healthy Aging Martha's Vineyard (HAMV) is a planning, advocacy and community building organization with a mission to create an Aging-Friendly island, meeting the needs of the rapidly growing Older Adult population, their families, and those who care for them.

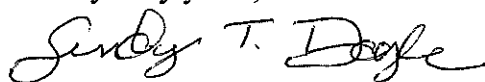
We would like to express our support for The Coalition to Create a MV Housing Bank. While this initiative will benefit all islanders of any age, we believe that a housing bank will have a significant impact on the well-being of our Older Adults (who now represent one in three Islanders) and make it possible to ensure that the workforce is present to provide support services to this rapidly growing and aging population.

HAMV recently completed an island-wide Older Adult survey with over 2,500 Older Adults participating. We heard that the vast majority of Older Adults feel it is important to "be on the Vineyard as you age" and for those who do not own a home, alternative housing options are very limited. In addition, over 30% of respondents indicated that they currently have difficulty in obtaining support for routine and heavy housework, yard work and home maintenance. The need for essential services (e.g. home health, adult supportive day, caregiver support) is expected to double in the next two years along with daily living assistance (e.g. access to food and medical care) – all of which requires a qualified, caring and an available workforce. Without an island-wide solution such as a housing bank, there is little hope that we can attract and retain qualified workers as well as provide the opportunity for Older Adults to age-in-place, which is an almost universal desire.

We ask that you consider these pressing needs of our Older Adults and our island history of caring for those who has contributed so much to our Island's way of life.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our perspective. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,



Cindy Doyle, HAMV Chair
cdoylema@me.com



Cindy Trish, Executive Director
ctrish@hamv.org