



April 30, 2025

Dear Chair Abney, Members of House Finance Committee,

RE: Support for H5466

On behalf of the Senior Agenda Coalition of RI (SACRI), I am pleased to support H5466, AN ACT RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- MEDICAL ASSISTANCE introduced by Representatives Solomon, Casey, O'Brien, Casimiro, Noret, Serpa, Kennedy, Corvese and Spears.

The bill raises the state Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) level for persons on Medicaid who are in nursing homes from \$75 to \$100 per month. The PNA is the amount of money a person on Medicaid is allowed to keep from their income which in many cases is mainly their Social Security benefit. The balance of the resident's income goes to pay for their care. The PNA was increased from \$50 to \$75 by legislation passed in 2023. Increasing the PNA level to \$100 as called for in this bill would better reflect the impact of inflation and bring the payment more in line with funds needed today by residents to pay for things they need to pay for out-of-pocket (items such as haircuts, clothing, telephone service, cable TV if not provided by facility, and other niceties of life.)

As you consider this bill we also recommend you review the PNA for persons being supported by Medicaid in assisted living and the state SSI supplement for persons living in Assisted Living. We believe it makes sense for you to consider standardization of the PNA for all persons living in residential care settings funded by Medicaid.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Carol Costa, Executive Director
SACRI