



Dear Chair Abney and Members House Finance Committee,

**RE: H6289**

The Senior Agenda Coalition has long advocated for the expansion of home and community-based services and for rebalancing the state's Medicaid expenditures for long term care with a goal of spending 50% on such care vs. institutional care. Currently, we are at 35% (excluding services for the ID/DD population.)<sup>1</sup> compared to the national average of 53%<sup>2</sup>.

Assisted living is considered to be a home and community-based service. Private pay assisted living is costly (median cost in RI is \$7,000 month) and many persons in need of assisted living cannot afford to pay privately and frequently resort to nursing home admissions with spend down to Medicaid. To incentivize assisted living providers to accept persons on Medicaid, the state has taken steps to increase assisted living reimbursement rates based on the individual's care needs and the Assisted Living residence's capacity for addressing those needs based on a 3-Tier Certification system.

Beneficiaries at Tier C level of need require extensive assistance with a minimum of 3 Activities of Daily Living (ADL) and 16 hours or more per week of a combination of personal care, limited health services and care coordination to include memory care, behavioral health care and medication management. Providers at Tier 3 level must be able to: 1. Provide extensive assistance with at least 3 ADL's and 16 hours or more ADL care; 2. Provide Single rooms or apartment-like settings and 3. Have special trained staff such as individuals licensed and/or certified in behavioral health, dementia, or another specialty area of care available 24/7 or meet the requirements for provision of dementia care or Limited Health Services.

Meeting Tier 3 Provider Capacity clearly involves increased staff capacity including nursing staff which, given the workforce shortage, is a recruitment challenge.

While SACRI supports the increase in reimbursement for Tier C Assisted Living providers we strongly urge you to amend the bill to require Assisted Living Residences serving the Medicaid population to submit biennial reports to EOHHS on the number of Medicaid clients served and at what level as a way of assessing the impact of reimbursement increases and providing transparency. Such a requirement is included in H6074 by Rep. Shanley.

Sincerely,  
Maureen Maigret, Policy Advisor  
Senior Agenda Coalition of RI

1. <https://eohhs.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur226/files/2024-09/2024%20LTSS%20Scorecard.pdf>
2. <https://ltsschoices.aarp.org/scorecard-report/2023>