



Aldersbridge Communities - Letter of Support for H6289

May 20, 2025

Chair Marvin L. Abney
House Committee on Finance
Rhode Island House of Representatives
State House Room 35
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Support for House Bill H-6289 – Long-Term Care Service and Finance Reform

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee:

I'm Richard Gamache, Chief Executive Officer of Aldersbridge Communities, and I'm testifying in favor of House Bill H-6289, introduced by Majority Whip Katherine Kazarian.

On the surface, you may think that 6289 is just another pipe dream by a struggling not-for-profit organization during a time of budget deficits. But here's why you need to advance this bill.

Last June, Linn Health and Rehabilitation, a highly rated not for profit nursing home that we operated, closed due to low Medicaid reimbursement.

In its place, we opened The Loft at Linn, an affordable community-based assisted living memory care program for people living with dementia. In a matter of months, we filled up and now have a long wait list, even though we haven't had a grand opening announcement or ribbon cutting event.

One third of our residents came from skilled nursing facilities where their care was paid for by Medicaid. Now that they've moved to The Loft the state is saving \$43,800 per year, per person. Not only that, but early research shows that their level of function has increased as has their sense of well-being.

We have created a less expensive option with better results. It's too bad we're losing money, because we could expand and save even more for the state.

The staff who work at The Loft at Linn, and their sister community, Winslow Gardens, belong to SEIU 1199. According to our contract, they are entitled to a \$1.25 per hour increase effective October 1. This will cost \$177,000, which might have been affordable if the nursing home remained open because of the COLA which gets approved each year. Assisted living communities do not receive an annual raise from the state.



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Aldersbridge Communities is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

We are an equal opportunity provider of elder housing and healthcare.



Approving H 6289 won't solve our financial challenges, but it will help. We will survive and continue to grow, and the state of RI needs innovative not for profit organizations like Aldersbridge. If we cannot make it work financially, the state will lose another high-quality, low-cost provider, more union jobs will be eliminated, and RI's most vulnerable citizens miss out on a program specifically designed to meet their needs.

The state of Rhode Island cannot afford to let House Bill 6289 die in committee or get voted down. If 6289 dies, it's likely that The Loft at Linn dies as well. We need your help, and you need us as well to create programs and solutions that cost less and produce far better outcomes while saving hundreds of thousands of dollars for the state.

Please support House bill 6289. Thank you.