



May 5, 2026

Subject: SEIU 1199NE Position in Support of H-7059 – Appropriation for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

Dear Chairman Abney and Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee:

On behalf of SEIU 1199NE, representing approximately 7,500 healthcare and social service workers across Rhode Island — including approximately 1,000 nursing home caregivers — we write in support of H-7059.

Our members work in nursing homes and other long-term care settings across the state, caring for residents with complex medical, behavioral, and cognitive needs. They understand how important it is for residents and families to have a place to turn when concerns arise.

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program plays an important role in helping residents and families navigate issues and resolve concerns. It provides an independent resource that can step in, listen, and help address problems before they escalate.

In many cases, the concerns being raised are tied to broader system pressures, including staffing levels, resource constraints, and increasingly complex care needs. These are challenges that caregivers are managing every day, often without having control over the underlying conditions that shape their work.

When concerns are addressed early and constructively, it helps reduce conflict, improve communication, and create better outcomes for residents and caregivers alike.

At the same time, the demand on the Ombudsman Program has increased, with more cases and more complex situations. Without adequate resources, it becomes harder to respond in a timely way and to provide the level of attention these situations require.

H-7059 provides a modest but important investment to ensure that this program can continue to function effectively. Strengthening the Ombudsman Program supports residents, families, and caregivers by helping resolve issues constructively and keeping the focus on quality care.

We urge the Committee to pass H-7059.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the "e".

Alex Moore

Political Director

SEIU 1199NE

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