

## Chris O'Brien

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**From:** Charles Galligan <charlieinvestigates@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 4, 2026 1:19 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee; Rep. Speakman, June  
**Subject:** Galligan support of H7059

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Dear House Finance Committee,

My name is Charlie Galligan, I am a longtime parental caregiver, having spent nearly every day for the last fourteen years in a nursing home, and I became a somewhat reluctant advocate for nursing home residents and staff out of necessity. Once educated in the long term care ombudsman's program and involved in the national Essential Caregivers Movement, I saw a stark contrast several years ago in the advocacy other states' ombudsmen and women undertook for residents of their states' nursing homes, and our program here in Rhode Island, which was entangled in financial and other conflicts with the LTC industry, manifesting itself in muted advocacy for the residents. I've been very encouraged by the new administration in our program, now led by Lori Light, and only wish that you all would appropriate far more than this \$100k to support that agency. I know too well the struggles of nursing home residents, lucid and otherwise, and their family caregivers when attempting to assert their rights under the 1987 Nursing Home Reform Act. The deck is stacked against residents, and our current ombudswoman and her staff are doing everything they can to protect the dignity, safety, and peace of this very vulnerable population, but they need your help.

Please show this program and this population some grace by approving this funding and passing H7059.

Sincere thanks,  
Charlie Galligan, PI  
RI rep, Essential Caregivers Movement  
Bristol  
253-3518