



May 5, 2026

Dear Chair Abney and Members House Finance Committee,

**Re: Support for H8183**

SACRI's mission is to mobilize people to implement an agenda that improves the quality of life of older Rhode Islanders and adults with disabilities. In thinking about improving *quality of life*, promoting timely access to needed health and long term care supports and services ranks as one of SACRI's top priorities. Providing access to long term care supports and services for older adults and persons of all ages requires provider reimbursement rates for home and community-based services to be sufficient to meet workforce demands especially for direct care staff.

**H8183** sponsored by Representatives Shanley, Spears, Casimiro, Slater, McNamara, Bennett and Potter would provide an additional \$117,600,000 in total funds (\$46.4 million from general revenues) to fully fund the recommendations for provider reimbursements resulting from the OHIC's most recent legislatively mandated biennial rate review.

SACRI appreciates that the Governor's budget would provide for one-half of the recommended rate increases for home and community providers as determined by the mandated OHIC rate review process. However, to maintain the necessary staff to provide timely access to quality consumer-centric care it is imperative that providers are able to recruit and retain staff by offering competitive compensation and ongoing continuing education programming. In addition, we request you consider higher rate increases for those Assisted Living Residences that are Medicaid certified at the highest acuity level (Level C). This would serve as an incentive for more assisted living operators to accept persons on Medicaid who have high personal care needs as opposed to placing them in nursing homes at a much higher cost to the state Medicaid program. One person at the highest level of care of Medicaid assisted living certification could save the state about \$43,000 annually in Medicaid costs. Currently only 11 assisted living residences are certified to provide this highest level of care (Level C) and only about 5 of those have recently served clients on Medicaid (claims data provided by EOHHS).

SACRI also recommends that the statute be amended or regulations be adopted to require that providers receiving the rate increases provide reports following one year of implementation to show the impact of the increases in terms of staff retention, staff recruitment, reduction in wait times for accessing services, staff compensation and/or other appropriate metrics.

Thank you for your consideration of SACRI's support for this legislation and our recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Maureen Maignet, SACRI Policy Director

