



May 5, 2026

House Committee on Finance
Rhode Island State House
housefinance@rilegislature.gov

Re: **Testimony SUPPORTING House Bill 8314**

Dear Chair Abney and Honorable Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of House Bill 8314

ABC-RI advocates for the rights and interests of residents of long-term care facilities. Those relying on Medicaid are often the most vulnerable, and they are in the majority.

There are very few options for Rhode Islanders who rely on Medicaid and are in need of assisted living care. The need far outpaces the supply, and waiting lists for high-quality residences are long. Additionally, most facilities require one to two years of private pay residency before a resident may use Medicaid. As a result, many Rhode Islanders who may only need assistance with activities of daily living, dementia or behavioral health care, and medication management are forced to live in skilled nursing facilities. **Not only does this cost the state an additional roughly \$50 thousand/year per resident unnecessarily, it also violates the residents' Olmstead rights.** We know that individuals are better able to flourish in the least restrictive environment, and we often see residents' level of functioning and well-being decline when they are placed in a nursing facility.

This dearth of assisted living accommodations available to those relying on Medicaid, particularly for those requiring Tier C-level care, largely comes down to insufficient reimbursement rates. The current rate is approximately \$4 thousand per month for Tier C-level care. Private pay residents at that level of care pay up to \$10 thousand per month.

Rhode Island's highest-acuity assisted living facilities can't afford to take Medicaid residents, and the state is paying the price in nursing home costs. Five of eleven Tier C assisted living facilities have served **fewer than 11 Medicaid residents in every single month for seven straight years.** The Medicaid demand exists — the six participating Tier C facilities average 25 Medicaid residents apiece — but the current reimbursement rate doesn't cover the cost of caring for high-acuity Tier C residents.

WHAT THE CLAIMS DATA SHOWS

Of Rhode Island's 11 active Tier C facilities in 2025, **only six are meaningfully participating in Medicaid**. The other five report fewer than 11 Medicaid residents every month — a threshold that has held without exception since at least 2019.

TIER C FACILITY	AVG. MEDICAID RESIDENTS/MONTH, 2025
Darlington Memory Lane	48
The Loft at Linn	29
Spring Villa Memory Care	22
Halcyon at West Bay	18
St. Clare-Newport	18
Stillwater Assisted Living	17
<i>Pacifica Victoria Court</i>	<11
<i>The Highlands on the East Side</i>	<11
<i>The Phyllis Siperstein (Tamarisk)</i>	<11
<i>The Villa at Saint Antoine</i>	<11
<i>Tockwotton on the Waterfront</i>	<11

DEMAND IS REAL AND GROWING

Tier C Medicaid census has nearly tripled since 2019. The participating facilities have absorbed essentially all of that growth — but the five non-participating facilities have stayed flat below 11 residents for seven consecutive years.

TIER C MEDICAID RESIDENTS, 2019–2025

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
56	64	77	118	129	147	153

Known Medicaid residents at the six participating Tier C facilities. The five non-participating Tier C facilities (not shown) have remained at fewer than 11 each in every year shown.

Rhode Island must preserve our few high-quality, affordable, mostly non-profit assisted living residences, and encourage the development of more. HB 8314 is a very modest ask to that end, which can ultimately **save the state money and improve access to appropriate care** for our most vulnerable Rhode Islanders.

We respectfully urge you to pass this important, **cost-saving, rights-protecting, life-enhancing** bill, and we thank you for all of your work on behalf of all Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Gerard,
ABC-RI