

May 5, 2026

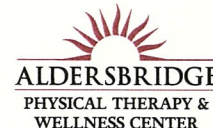
Dear Chair Abney and Members of House Finance Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB8314, An Act Relating to Human Services -- Medical Assistance -- Long-Term Care Service and Finance Reform, which calls for a 13% increase in the Medicaid rate paid for Assisted Living Tier C services, effective January 1, 2027. This 13% increase would be equal to the rate currently paid by the Neighborhood Health Plans of RI managed Medicaid program.

For over 50 years, Aldersbridge Communities has provided assisted living, independent living, assisted living memory care and rehabilitation services throughout Rhode Island for lower income older adults. We're a nonprofit organization that believes everyone should be treated inclusively with comfort, dignity, self-determination, and grace. Our staff, management and leaders are all local to Rhode Island and work here because we choose to do so. It's our passion and our calling.

The bill before you today seeks to increase the Medicaid rate for the highest level of assisted living services, Tier C. RI Medicaid currently pays rates based on three different "tiers" for assisted living residents, with the highest being Tier C, at \$150 per day. There are only five assisted living communities that accept Tier C because the residents who meet the Tier C criteria are more clinically complex with behavioral and dementia care needs. At Aldersbridge, we built an assisted living program specifically for this type of resident care and we currently accept and care for Tier C Medicaid residents.

Unfortunately, the state's current Tier C rate of \$150 per day does not support the level of care that is required. In contrast, Neighborhood Health Plans of RI pays \$170 per day for Tier C assisted living services because their subscribers receive high quality care at a lower cost in an Aldersbridge community. We respectfully request an equalization of rates between the two Medicaid programs.



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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.



We understand that there is a cost associated with raising the rate of Tier C assisted living services, although there also will be an offset and savings to the state's Medicaid program. In fact, when we closed our nursing home, we transferred many of our nursing home residents to the new assisted living Tier C program, resulting in Medicaid savings of \$46,000 per person per year to the state. **Last year, we saved Medicaid over \$600,000 in just one of our four buildings.**

There is also a cost if this bill is not passed, and it is a steep one. Aldersbridge is pioneering new programs that add value to the lives of low-income seniors. However, we are losing money, and we have already had to close our nationally recognized, award-winning nursing home due to the financial strain. If we cannot stay above water, we may need to downsize again, this time impacting our assisted living program, specifically for Medicaid residents who need this Tier C level of care.

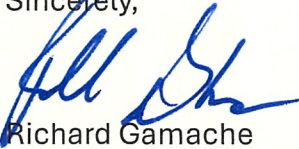
The Medicaid funded residents of Aldersbridge will not be welcomed into other assisted living communities because they require higher-cost specialty care and the Medicaid rate does not cover the cost of providing that care. As a result, they will have no other choice but to transfer into nursing homes and that level of care will cost the state twice as much as it costs today in assisted living.

However, raising the Tier C assisted living rates by 13% would enable us to take more people who are either in nursing homes or other higher cost settings, thereby saving Medicaid dollars for the state. Currently, we have about a dozen nursing home residents on our wait list for this program.

Additionally, with the higher Tier C rate, we would be willing and able to replicate this unique assisted living program in other locations across the state, saving several million dollars per year in Medicaid.

Thank you for your consideration of HB8314. It will provide a win/win result for patients and for Medicaid.

Sincerely,



Richard Gamache

Chief Executive Officer