



March 26, 2024

Subject: Support for H-7969

Dear Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services,

On behalf of SEIU 1199NE, we write to express our support for House Bill 7969, which grants long-term care residents the right to use electronic monitoring in their rooms. This bill represents a significant step forward in ensuring the safety and well-being of both residents and the dedicated direct care staff who serve them.

The bill's provision allowing the Rhode Island Department of Health to adopt rules necessary for its enforcement is particularly beneficial. This enables the creation of a regulatory framework that can adapt to evolving care standards and technological advancements, ensuring that caregivers are supported in a transparent, accountable care environment. For our members—CNAs and other direct care staff—this means a safer workplace, where the focus is on providing the highest quality of care without the fear of unfounded allegations or misunderstandings. It also offers a level of protection and clarity that is currently lacking, by establishing clear guidelines around the use of monitoring technology.

We believe that the implementation of H-7969 will enhance the trust and collaboration between caregivers, residents, and their families. It acknowledges the hard work and dedication of our members by safeguarding their rights and ensuring their efforts are recognized in a positive light.

Thank you for considering our position on this important matter. We are committed to working alongside you to improve the safety and quality of care in Rhode Island's long-term care facilities.

Sincerely,

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