



**Senior Agenda  
Coalition of RI**

70 Bath Street  
Providence, RI 02908

April 24, 2024

Dear Chair Donovan and Members  
House Health and Human Services Committee,

**Re: Statement in Support of H8153, Relating to Assisted Living Licensing Act**

The Senior Agenda Coalition of RI is a non-profit organization that works to educate the public and our government officials about the needs of older Rhode Islanders and to advocate for policies and legislation to improve their quality of life.

The Coalition is pleased to support H8153 introduced by Representatives Donovan, Carson, Speakman, Cotter, Henries, Spears, and Fenton-Fung.

Providing for the establishment of Family Councils in Assisted Living similar to that required by state law for nursing homes will provide an opportunity for family members to collectively address issues generally affecting residents. A Family Council can serve to improve quality of care, ensure resident rights are being protected as spelled out in *RIGL 23-17.4-16. Rights of residents*, and serve as a useful forum to communicate with the facility staff and administration.

Family Councils are not intended to pursue individual grievances but rather to be a forum for communication with staff and administration to mutually address and resolve issues and concerns. As the number of persons with Alzheimer's and Related Dementias being cared for in Assisted Living Residences increases and more persons with higher health needs are served in Assisted Living as allowed for those facilities with Limited Health Services licenses, the formation of Family Councils in Assisted Living Facilities can serve as an important vehicle for promoting quality care.

Respectfully submitted,  
From: Maureen Maigret, Policy Advisor