



ALLIANCE FOR BETTER
LONG TERM CARE

February 24, 2025

House Committee on Health and Human Services
HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov

Re: Testimony SUPPORTING House Bill 5303 an act relating to health and safety -- healthcare professional complaint history transparency act

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 5303. My name is Keri Salinger, and I am the Chief Operating Officer of the Alliance for Better Long Term Care. I am writing to share my strong and deeply personal support for House Bill 5303, the Healthcare Professional Complaint History Transparency Act. This issue is not abstract, it is real, and it has devastating consequences.

As it is the mission of the Alliance to improve the quality of life and health care of residents of long term care facilities and assisted living facilities, I feel this critical legislation addresses a deeply concerning issue in long-term care: the repeated hiring of individuals with a history of abuse allegations, who are able to move between facilities without any formal disciplinary record following them. I have seen firsthand how the gaps in our system leave vulnerable residents at risk, and I believe it is our responsibility to do everything we can to close those gaps.

It is unacceptable that individuals accused of serious misconduct can be dismissed from one facility, only to quietly find employment at another—without any record of their past allegations following them. This isn't just a policy issue; it's a matter of safety, dignity, and basic human decency. Every time this happens, residents suffer, families lose trust, and the very integrity of our long-term care system is undermined.

House Bill 5303 offers a solution we desperately need. By creating a transparent, searchable database that allows employers to review the full complaint history of healthcare professionals, even those complaints that didn't result in disciplinary action, we give long-term care facilities the power to make informed, responsible hiring decisions. This isn't about punishing healthcare professionals unfairly; it's about protecting those who cannot protect themselves.

I also appreciate that this bill strikes a fair balance by respecting the rights of healthcare professionals, allowing them to review and dispute inaccuracies. It's a just and necessary measure that ensures accountability without sacrificing fairness.

We can no longer allow this dangerous loophole to persist. I urge you and your colleagues to pass this critical legislation. The safety, dignity, and trust of Rhode Island's most vulnerable citizens depend on it—and so does the integrity of our long-term care system.

We commend your leadership on this issue and hope you give this bill your full support. Thank you for your time.

Best Regards,

Keri Salinger
Chief Operations Officer

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