



March 26, 2025

Testimony in Support of H-5169 – Assisted Living Resident Empowerment Bill

Chair Donovan and Honorable Members of the House Health & Human Services Committee,

On behalf of SEIU 1199NE—which represents approximately 5,000 healthcare and service sector workers in Rhode Island, including about 1,000 who work in various long-term care settings outside of assisted living—we submit our testimony in support of H-5169.

Although many of our members serve in long-term care settings other than assisted living, we recognize that the challenges in assisted living facilities affect the broader continuum of care and the families who rely on these services. H-5169 seeks to improve oversight and transparency in assisted living by requiring that facilities provide reasonable support for independent family and resident councils, mandate a 120-day notice for fee or rate increases, and require the disclosure of three years of historical rate increases in residency agreements.

These measures would empower residents and their families to hold facility operators accountable, ensuring that any changes in fees are predictable and that pricing histories are transparent. Such accountability is especially important in an environment where assisted living facilities are inspected infrequently and unexpected rate hikes can have a significant impact on residents' financial stability.

By supporting H-5169, we help create a framework that benefits not only the residents and families in assisted living but also the entire long-term care system in Rhode Island. Improved oversight and transparency contribute to a safer and more stable care environment—a benefit that resonates with our members and the communities they serve.

SEIU 1199NE respectfully urges the Committee to support H-5169 as an important step toward strengthening accountability and quality in Rhode Island's long-term care sector.

Respectfully,

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