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To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Subject: Testimony for hearing today 3/19/26

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Dear Chair Donovan and Honorable Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of the following bills. I write as someone who, for the past seven and a half years, has been a caregiver to a person with dementia who has lived in a long term care facility in Providence. This person passed away only last Saturday, so this grief is fresh and my lived experience of care facilities is deep.

HB 7624

(AL)

Increases frequency of inspections of assisted living facilities with Special Dementia Care Units to annual, from biennial. (Inspections of all assisted living residences were annual until 2017)

There is evidence of an increase in safety and quality violations in assisted living residences in recent years; decreasing the frequency of inspections as residents' care needs are increasing makes no sense and puts vulnerable people at risk. While the facility I know generally provided very good care, I have been in other facilities where conditions were far below acceptable.

HB 7928

(AL) Enables the formation of resident and family councils in assisted living residences

This makes good sense on its face; the life for administrators is minimal, especially when considering that family/resident councils can support and enhance ongoing efforts and **inform** administration of needs and assets in a collaborative and ongoing manner. Eliminating adversarial attitudes, and supporting - in real ways - input from and information to residents and families can only help improve care and communication for all. While I have the privilege of being a hospice volunteer and an indefatigable advocate for my person, not everyone has the knowledge of systems, the time or wherewithal to tackle advocacy. Opening communication to all can, again, benefit facilities, families, residents and patients.

HB 7929

(AL and NH) Limits a facility's ability to charge rent and fees following a resident's death for a maximum of 7 days or until removal of the personal property from the room. (Currently most facilities charge for 30 days after a resident's death.)

This hits close to the bone. My person passed before midnight on Saturday; by Sunday afternoon I cleared his room - one he'd been in for almost eight years. I was lucky to have help but many people don't. I still don't know what charges might be forthcoming - if I'll be charged or if I've already paid for the room for the month and might have a rebate? Clarity and time and grace will not come amiss for families.

HB 7927

(AL and NH) Allows residents to use facility's public internet for an electronic monitoring device

RI's current law regarding electronic monitoring in LTC facilities requires residents to contract with their own internet provider. This is prohibitively expensive for many and should be examined; it seems logical that bundling costs for residents would benefit everyone.

Thank you for your attention.

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