



March 18, 2026

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

I am pleased to support the following bills relating to Assisted Living Residences:

**H7927**, sponsored by Representatives Knight, Boylan, Alzate, Serpa, Fellela, Corvese, Kislak, McEntee, and Cortvriend would provide that when a nursing or assisted living facility has internet access for residents that a resident or their representative chooses to conduct electronic monitoring that the resident may connect the electronic monitoring device to the facility's internet service for without incurring extra cost or charges.

Our current law requires residents that wish to participate in the electronic monitoring program to contract independently with an internet provider. For many residents or their families this would be prohibitively expensive and a barrier to participating in electronic monitoring. Allowing residents to access a facility's internet for free for this purpose addresses the affordability issue and promotes equity.

**H7928**, sponsored by Representatives Donovan, Tanzi, McGaw, Boylan, Speakman, Casimiro, Cruz, Furtado, Ajello, and Bennett, requires all assisted living residences to allow for and support the establishment of family and resident councils. We commend Rep. Donovan for recognizing the importance of putting into law a clear requirement related to family and resident councils as they can have an important role in ensuring that resident rights are protected and for promoting the delivery of quality care.

The role of these councils would be to serve in an advisory and collaborative capacity with the facility to address matters affecting residents generally and to seek mutually acceptable solutions. The councils would not address or resolve individual resident grievances. To support the councils, the assisted living residence would be required to provide reasonable access to meeting space, and space in a prominent space to post information about the councils.

**H7929**, sponsored by Rep. Morales, McNamara, Kislak, Sanchez, Donovan, Cruz, Potter, Tanzi, Cotter, and Carson amends assisted living residents' rights law by prohibiting an assisted living residence from enforcing a thirty (30) day notice of vacancy policy in the event of a resident's death and entitles the assisted living residence to rent and fees only until the family, estate or responsible party has removed the deceased person's personal property, but in no case for more than (7) days from the resident's death. If the personal property is not removed within that timeframe the residence may arrange for the storage of the property. When this bill was discussed by our SACRI Policy Committee several had personal stories of how family members had been billed for charges for up to 30 days after their family member had passed and thought it was unacceptable. As Assisted living Residence rates in RI average \$7,000 month, for a deceased resident's family or estate to be required to pay for a full month seems quite excessive. Limiting it to (7) days as proposed in the bill is reasonable and would provide sufficient resources to prepare the unit for a new resident.

Thank you kindly for your consideration,  
Maureen Maigret, SACRI Policy Director