



March 18, 2026

The Honorable Chairwoman Susan Donovan  
House Health and Human Services Committee  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H7927 - Concerns

Chairwoman Donovan and Honorable Members of the Committee:

On behalf of LeadingAge Connecticut & Rhode Island, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding House Bill 7927.

Currently, nursing home residents are permitted to install electronic monitoring devices that utilize internet-based technology for audio or visual monitoring, with the resident responsible for securing and paying for their own internet service. This bill proposes to require facilities to provide access to their internal internet service at no cost to support such devices.

While we are not objecting to the underlying statute that provides the resident the right to utilize monitoring technology, we must respectfully oppose this new proposal as drafted.

Requiring facilities to provide free internet access capable of supporting multiple simultaneous video and audio streams would impose additional financial burdens on providers, many of which are already facing significant fiscal challenges. Upgrading infrastructure to ensure sufficient bandwidth and reliability—while also maintaining service quality for all residents and operational needs—could result in substantial costs.

If the Committee wishes to advance this proposal, we respectfully request consideration of a grant program to support the upfront capital costs associated with necessary internet upgrades. Additionally, any ongoing operational costs for Medicaid participating assisted

living facilities should be fully reimbursed through Medicaid rate adjustments or a direct pass-through mechanism.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.

Mag Morelli

President