

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** Sandra Darling <sandradarling47@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2026 3:24 PM  
**To:** House Health and Human Services Committee; June Speakman; Sen. Lauria, Pamela J.  
**Subject:** House Bill #7928

Chairwoman Donovan and members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

I write to you in **support** of HB #7928 which establishes, encourages and supports the establishment of family councils and resident councils in managed residential communities providing assisted living services.

Rhode Island already protects the rights of nursing home residents to form independent councils. Assisted living residents, who are often equally or more vulnerable, have no equivalent protection. HB 7928 closes that gap. An organized group of residents or family members is not a burden on a well-run facility. It is a sign of one.

Federal law guarantees nursing home residents the right to form resident and family councils, and requires facilities to support those councils with space, staff, and timely responses. Assisted living facilities are not subject to federal oversight, which makes state action all the more important. This bill brings RI's assisted living residents closer to the protections their counterparts in nursing homes already enjoy.

I urge your support and passage of HB #7928.

Sandra Darling, AARP Advocacy Volunteer and Retired RN  
7 Fort Hill Rd  
Bristol, RI 02809  
904-860-1566 cell/text