



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: H7929 - Opposed

Chair Donovan and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of LeadingAge Connecticut & Rhode Island, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding House Bill 7929.

Our association represents mission-driven, not-for-profit providers of aging services, including assisted living residences that serve older adults with varying levels of need. We appreciate the intent of this bill, which seeks to ensure fairness for residents and families during what is often a difficult and emotional transition.

We respectfully offer concerns with the proposed limitation that would restrict assisted living providers from charging rent and fees beyond seven days or until personal belongings are removed, whichever occurs first.

Assisted living communities operate within a residential model, where a unit is reserved for an individual resident and cannot be reoccupied until it is fully vacated, cleaned, and prepared for the next resident. In practice, the process of removing personal belongings—particularly when families are coordinating from out of state, managing estates, or navigating complex circumstances—can take longer than seven days. This bill does not recognize the financial and administrative burden placed on an assisted living facility if the family does not or is unable to remove the belongings within seven days.

During this time, the residence continues to incur real and ongoing costs associated with the unit, including staffing, maintenance, utilities, and lost occupancy. Limiting charges to

such a short and inflexible timeframe may unintentionally shift these costs onto providers, many of which are already operating on narrow margins.

We are also concerned that a rigid statutory cap does not account for the wide range of individual circumstances that families and providers face. In many cases, providers work collaboratively with families to offer flexibility and compassion, including waiving or reducing fees when appropriate. A one-size-fits-all requirement could reduce the ability to make case-by-case accommodations.

We would welcome the opportunity to work with the sponsor and the Committee to explore alternative approaches that balance the goal of protecting residents and families with the operational realities of assisted living communities. For example, a more flexible standard or reasonable extension process may better reflect the needs of all parties involved.

Thank you for your consideration of our perspective and for your continued support of Rhode Island's older adults and the providers who serve them.

Mag Morelli

President