



April 7, 2026

RE: Testimony Supporting H 7930

Chairperson Donovan and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in my capacity as the State Long Term Care Ombudsman for Rhode Island in strong support of H 7930 Transparency/equity extraction.

The provisions outlined in this bill particularly those requiring detailed disclosure of ownership interests address a critical and longstanding gap in transparency within the long term care system. As written, the bill requires disclosure not only of operators, but also of all individuals and entities with direct or indirect financial interests in the land, buildings, mortgages, leases, and overall ownership structure of nursing facilities. This level of detail is essential.

In our work, we frequently encounter situations where the true ownership and control of a facility are difficult to identify due to complex corporate structures involving layered entities, partnerships, and management arrangements. This lack of clarity creates barriers to accountability when concerns arise regarding resident care, staffing, discharge practices, or the protection of residents' rights.

From the Ombudsman perspective, transparency is not theoretical it directly impacts our ability to resolve complaints effectively. Residents and their families deserve to know who is ultimately responsible for the care being provided. Regulators and advocates must also be able to identify patterns across facilities that may share common ownership or financial interests.

The bill's requirement that ownership information be made available to the public upon request is especially important. Public access promotes accountability and empowers residents, families, and advocates to make informed decisions.

Limiting withdrawals exceeding three percent (3%) of annual patient care revenue without prior approval introduces an important safeguard. From our vantage point, financial decisions made at the ownership level can have real consequences for residents particularly when they affect staffing levels, resources, and overall quality of care. Ensuring oversight of substantial financial transactions helps protect against practices that could negatively impact resident well-being.



In our daily work, we hear directly from residents and families navigating challenges within the long term care system. We see where systems succeed, and where they fall short. Greater transparency in ownership and financial practices will strengthen oversight, improve accountability, and ultimately support better outcomes for Rhode Island's older adults.

House Bill 7930 represents a meaningful step toward ensuring that long term care facilities operate with the level of transparency and accountability that residents deserve.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation and for your continued commitment to protecting Rhode Island's most vulnerable residents.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Light
State Long Term Care Ombudsman
Rhode Island