



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 8366 – With Amendment  
Ocean State Center for Independent Living (OSCIL)**

Chairperson Donovan and Members of the House Health & Human Services Committee, Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 8366, which proposes to include Centers for Independent Living under the definition of “healthcare facilities” required to have Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) on site.

The Ocean State Center for Independent Living (OSCIL), Rhode Island’s only Center for Independent Living, supports the intent of this legislation and finds it beneficial with an amendment.

We were not aware of this bill until after its introduction, particularly given that it was introduced late in March. As the only Center for Independent Living in Rhode Island, we respectfully ask to be considered a key partner and resource when proposing legislation that impacts the disability community. Our direct service experience and community connection can help inform practical, effective, and sustainable policy decisions.

OSCIL serves as a vital community-based organization that promotes independence and community integration for individuals with disabilities. Our centers function as active community hubs, hosting a wide range of programs including peer support groups, skills trainings, advocacy meetings, and community events. As such, ensuring the health and safety of all individuals who access our services is a shared priority.

Requiring AEDs in settings such as Centers for Independent Living is a reasonable and proactive public safety measure. OSCIL has already taken steps to equip both of its locations with AED devices and has ensured that staff receive appropriate training in their use.


However, while we support the intent of this requirement, we share concerns regarding the ongoing costs associated with compliance. AED devices require regular maintenance, replacement of parts such as batteries and pads, and periodic staff training to remain effective and compliant with best practices.


As a federally funded organization under Part B of the Independent Living Services Program, OSCIL operates within strict funding limitations. The funding available is modest and largely restricted to core independent living services, leaving limited flexibility for additional mandated expenses beyond our current scope.



# OCEAN STATE CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

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If Centers for Independent Living are to be included under this statutory requirement, we respectfully request that the General Assembly consider an amendment to include dedicated funding or financial support for the purchase, maintenance, replacement, and ongoing training associated with AED devices. This would ensure compliance without placing an undue financial burden on organizations that are already operating within constrained budgets.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to the safety and well-being of Rhode Islanders with disabilities.

Respectfully submitted,

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