



May 28, 2026

RE: Opposition to House Bill 8500

Dear Chairperson Donovan and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sharon Fusco and I serve as the Vice President of Operations for GreenTree Healthcare, we operate three nursing homes in Rhode Island, Silver Creek and Dawn Hill in Bristol and Berkshire Place in Providence. I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to House Bill 8500.

As providers entrusted with the care of Rhode Island's elderly and medically complex residents, nursing homes already operate under one of the most highly regulated and financially transparent healthcare environments in the country. While we understand and support accountability and oversight, House Bill 8500 creates an unnecessary and burdensome layer of reporting requirements that fails to address the true financial challenges facing long-term care providers.

Rhode Island nursing facilities already submit extensive financial and operational data to both state and federal agencies. These requirements include annual Medicaid Cost Reports, audited financial statements, Medicare cost reports, ownership disclosures, and detailed reporting through the Change in Effective Control process. In addition, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) and Medicaid already possess broad authority to conduct audits, request documentation, and monitor provider financial performance.

The issue is not a lack of information. The issue is that the data already being submitted has not been meaningfully utilized to support the long-term sustainability of nursing home providers. Despite years of detailed reporting, Medicaid reimbursement rates have only been rebased once in approximately fifteen years, while we as providers continue to face rapidly increasing labor, insurance, utility, pharmaceutical, food, and regulatory costs.

House Bill 8500 would require all providers, regardless of financial condition, to submit detailed quarterly financial reporting and additional documentation requirements. This approach creates a blanket administrative mandate rather than targeted oversight of facilities demonstrating financial distress. For us, dedicated providers who are already operating with limited staff and constrained resources, this legislation would divert valuable time and funding away from resident care and toward administrative compliance activities that do not improve quality outcomes.

Further, the bill raises serious concerns regarding implementation. It is unclear whether EOHHS currently has the staffing capacity, infrastructure, or operational resources necessary to effectively review, analyze, and respond to the increased volume of quarterly financial reports this legislation would generate.



Without the resources to meaningfully act on the information collected, the result will likely be additional bureaucracy with little practical value for residents, providers, or taxpayers.

The legislation also authorizes corrective action plans, additional audits, and further reporting obligations at the provider's expense, without offering financial support or reimbursement relief to facilities already struggling under chronic Medicaid underfunding. This is especially concerning at a time when nursing homes continue to experience workforce shortages, rising operational costs, and significant financial instability following the pandemic.

As operators, our focus must remain on resident care, staffing stability, clinical quality, and maintaining access to services for Rhode Island seniors. Additional administrative mandates that fail to address the root cause of provider instability, insufficient Medicaid reimbursement will only place further strain on an already fragile long-term care system.

I respectfully urge the Committee to oppose H.8500 and instead focus on policies that strengthen the sustainability of Rhode Island's nursing homes, including appropriate Medicaid reimbursement, workforce investment, and better utilization of the substantial financial information already available to the state.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to Rhode Island's long-term care residents and providers.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Fusco
Vice President of Operations
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