



April 14, 2026

Dear Chair DiPalma and Members of Senate Finance Committee,

**RE: RI Department of Health Budget**

SACRI's mission is to mobilize people to implement an agenda that improves the quality of life of older Rhode Islanders and adults with disabilities. In thinking about improving *quality of life*, promoting timely access to needed healthcare and advocating for quality long term supports and services are SACRI priorities.

**SACRI requests the Committee recommend the addition of \$122,000 to the Department of Health budget in order to provide staff support needed to conduct annual inspections of assisted living residences that have Special Dementia Care Units. Currently only biennial inspections are required.**

In January SACRI learned of a significant number of instances of what DOH staff considered to be "Immediate Jeopardy" in assisted living residences in 2025. An Immediate Jeopardy citation refers to non-compliance with regulations resulting in a serious adverse outcome or likely serious adverse outcome, serious injury, serious harm, serious impairment or death has occurred, is occurring, or is likely to occur to one or more identified recipients at risk.

Over one-third of these citations involved residents in Special Dementia Care Units (SCUs). Residents of Assisted Living SCUs have a diagnosis of dementia and may not be able to know if their care plans and medication orders are being followed correctly due to cognitive impairments impacting memory and executive function. And some residents may not have relatives or friends who can act as advocates and file a complaint about care on their behalf.

Legislation has been introduced to require annual inspections of these facilities (H7624 and S2571). However, the DOH Director indicated that to conduct annual inspections of assisted living residences with SCUs would require an additional FTE at a cost of \$121,742.

We urge the Committee to recommend this additional funding that would allow for annual inspections of those assisted living residences with SCUs and help ensure quality care is being provided to these vulnerable residents. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maureen Maignet, SACRI Policy Advisor