



May 26, 2026

Senate Committee on Finance  
Rhode Island State House  
slegislation@rilegislature.gov

Re: **Testimony SUPPORTING SB 2084**, to increase the personal needs allowance for nursing home residents

Dear Chair DiPalma and Honorable Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 2084. ABC-RI stands for the rights and interests of all Rhode Islanders residing in long-term care facilities. Those relying on Medicaid are often the most vulnerable, and they are in the majority.

When visiting a Providence nursing facility not long ago, I was saddened to see that the prizes for the day's bingo were deodorant and shampoo. Residents in nursing facilities generally receive very limited, low quality, personal hygiene products, so deodorant or a preferred brand of shampoo are literally "prized."

These residents receive a monthly "personal needs allowance" of \$75, which nearly all residents find insufficient to meet their basic needs. If your cell phone service costs \$30 per month (there are generally no landlines in resident rooms) and you pay \$25 for a monthly haircut, that leaves you with \$20 for all of your other expenses. Food and care is all included in a nursing facility, but if you'd like a decent cup of coffee, fresh produce, or occasional take-out, that \$20 isn't going to cover it. If you want to visit family and need to take an Uber, you'll need to save up. And if you need new socks and underwear, let alone new shoes, you're going to have to rely on the generosity of others or go without. Streaming services, movies, magazines, and art/craft supplies are often out of reach for most. And many residents have told us how heartbreaking it is that they can't afford even small gifts for family and loved ones.

Rhode Islanders residing in nursing homes had no increase in their PNAs for decades, then received a modest increase in 2023, with the promise of a future increase to bring it to \$100/month. With the cost of living increasing ever faster, and **20 states at or above Rhode Island's current allowance (11 states at \$100-\$200)**, it's time to institute that increase. We respectfully urge you to grant our most vulnerable Rhode Islanders an allowance that can help them maintain a bit of dignity and independence. **No one should rely on winning at bingo to get the hygiene products they need.**

Thank you for your time and attention, and for all of your work on behalf of all Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Gerard, ABC-RI

## Medicaid Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) by State, 2026 - Nursing Home Residents

Monthly allowance Medicaid nursing home residents keep from income. Federal floor \$30, state max \$200. Green = pending bill

State	2026 PNA (Monthly)	Indexing / Notes	Legislative Activity	Status	Proposed Amount
Alabama	\$30.00	Federal floor; unchanged since 1988			
Alaska	\$200.00	At federal maximum			
Arizona	\$149.10	15% of Federal Benefit Rate; adjusts annually			
Arkansas	\$40.00				
California	\$35.00	Unchanged since 2001			
Colorado	\$108.73	Tied to COLA			
Connecticut	\$75.00	Annual COLA adjustment (1997 statute)	HB05300 (2026): COLA adjustments to LTC PNA	Pending - public hearing 2/24/2026	COLA
Delaware	\$75.00	Raised from \$50 eff. 1/1/2025			
District of Columbia	\$106.00	Tied to COLA			
Florida	\$160.00				
Georgia	\$70.00				
Hawaii	\$75.00				
Idaho	\$40.00				
Illinois	\$60.00	Nursing home rate (SNF/ICF)	HB1016: supportive living facilities only - OUT OF SCOPE for NH	n/a (not nursing homes)	
Indiana	\$52.00				
Iowa	\$55.00	Raised from \$50 via 2025 HHS approp. (SPA IA-25-0025)	SF476 (2025-26): raise to \$65 + annual CPI	Pending - Senate HHS Committee	\$65.00
Kansas	\$62.00				
Kentucky	\$60.00				
Louisiana	\$50.00	Raised from \$38 by Act 259, eff. 6/11/2025	HB266 / Act 259	Enacted 2025	
Maine	\$40.00				
Maryland	\$102.00				
Massachusetts	\$72.80	Unchanged since 2007	S.887 / H.1411 (194th): increase + COLA	Pending - S.887 in Sen. Ways & Means; H.1411 in committee	Increase + COLA
Michigan	\$60.00	Unchanged since at least 1994	HB5835 (2025-26): raise to \$200 (no COLA)	Pending - House committee	\$200.00
Minnesota	\$128.00	Tied to COLA			
Mississippi	\$44.00	Unchanged since 2001			
Missouri	\$50.00		HB3319 (2026): modifies institutional PNA	Pending - read 2nd time 2/18/2026	Increase
Montana	\$50.00				
Nebraska	\$75.00				
Nevada	\$154.00	Tied to COLA			
New Hampshire	\$74.00	Tied to COLA, raised every five years			
New Jersey	\$50.00		A.2691 / S.1576: raise to \$140 + COLA	Pending - advanced from Assembly committee 5/2026	\$140.00
New Mexico	\$94.00	Adjusted per CPI			
New York	\$50.00	Unchanged since 1988	A.2048 / S.4744A: raise to \$200 + CPI	Pending - in committee	\$200.00
North Carolina	\$70.00	Raised from \$30 in 2023			
North Dakota	\$100.00				
Ohio	\$75.00	Raised from \$50 in 2026-27 budget	HB822 (2025-26): raise to \$100/\$200; extend to assisted living	Pending - House Medicaid Committee	\$100.00
Oklahoma	\$75.00				
Oregon	\$79.07				
Pennsylvania	\$60.00	PA OLTL set 2025 NH rate	HB1606 (2025-26): amends NH PNA deduction	Pending - passed House Aging committee 26-0, 6/2025	Increase
Rhode Island	\$75.00		S2084 (2026): raise to \$100	Pending - Senate Finance hearing 5/26/2026	\$100.00
South Carolina	\$30.00	Federal floor	H.3948 (2025-26): increase + annual COLA, min \$100	Pending - in House	\$100.00
South Dakota	\$100.00				

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State	2026 PNA (Monthly)	Indexing / Notes	Legislative Activity	Status	Proposed Amount
Tennessee	\$70.00				
Texas	\$75.00				
Utah	\$45.00				
Vermont	\$79.93				
Virginia	\$40.00				
Washington	\$105.78	Tied to COLA			
West Virginia	\$50.00				
Wisconsin	\$55.00	Tied to COLA; reviewed every 2 years			
Wyoming	\$50.00				

### Notes & Sources:

Baselines: National Consumer Voice PNA By State Chart (2025), corrected for verified 2026 figures and 2025-26 enactments.

Pending nursing-home bills (8): CT HB05300, IA SF476, MA S.887/H.1411, MI HB5835, MO HB3319, NJ A.2691/S.1576, NY A.2048/S.4744A, OH HB822, PA HB1606, RI S2084, SC H.3948.

Recently enacted (2025): LA Act 259 (\$38 to \$50); ND HB1485; IA budget (\$50 to \$55); OH budget (\$50 to \$75); DE admin increase (\$50 to \$75, 2025).

Out of scope: IL HB1016 targets supportive living facilities, not nursing homes. OH HB822 also extends PNA to assisted living waiver (NH portion in scope).

Federal bills (not state): H.R.5685 / H.R.7778 / H.R.7682 would raise the federal floor from \$30 to \$60 and index to inflation.

COLA/FBR-indexed amounts (AZ, CO, DC, MN, NV, NH, OH-related, WA, WI, CT) may shift in January; verify exact 2026 figures with each state Medicaid agency before citing.

Status current as of May 26, 2026. Bill stages change; confirm on LegiScan or the state legislature site before relying on this in testimony.