



April 28, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Murray

Chairwoman, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

State House

Providence, RI 02903

Re: S2388 – Support

Dear Chairwoman Donovan and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of LeadingAge Connecticut & Rhode Island, I write to express our strong support for Senate Bill 2388, which establishes a moratorium on the issuance of new home care, home nursing care, and hospice provider licenses while the State undertakes a comprehensive review of system capacity and need.

LeadingAge Connecticut & Rhode Island represents a broad continuum of nonprofit aging services providers, including nursing homes, assisted living communities, affordable senior housing providers, and home- and community-based service organizations serving older adults across Rhode Island.

S2388 proposes a thoughtful and necessary pause on the approval of new licenses through July 1, 2031, while directing the Department of Health to conduct a statewide utilization and capacity study to better align services with actual patient need. This approach reflects sound health system planning and ensures that future growth in home-based services is guided by data, rather than occurring in an uncoordinated and potentially destabilizing manner.

As providers on the front lines of caring for Rhode Island's aging population, our members have seen firsthand the challenges caused by rapid and uncoordinated expansion in the home care sector. These include workforce shortages, fragmentation of care, and increasing pressure on established providers that are already striving to meet rising demand while maintaining high standards of quality.

A temporary moratorium, coupled with a rigorous statewide assessment of service capacity, will allow policymakers to better understand where true gaps in care exist, identify areas of duplication, and ensure that future licensure decisions are grounded in objective data.

Importantly, S2388 includes reasonable exceptions to address emergency circumstances and protect access where it is most needed.

We also note that the bill's framework to cap licenses based on current capacity and tie future approvals to demonstrated need will help promote stability, accountability, and sustainability across the continuum of care.

At a time when Rhode Island is facing significant workforce constraints and growing demand for services among older adults, it is critical that the State take a deliberate and strategic approach to system growth. S2388 strikes the right balance by protecting access to care while ensuring that new providers entering the market are positioned to deliver safe, high-quality services.

For these reasons, LeadingAge Connecticut & Rhode Island respectfully urges the Committee to support S2388.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued leadership on behalf of Rhode Island's older adults and the providers who serve them.

Sincerely,

Mag Morelli

President

LeadingAge Connecticut & Rhode Island