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TTY: 771
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April 28, 2026

The Honorable Melissa A. Murray, Chair
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
State House
82 Smith St.
Providence, RI 02903

RE: S 2571 – An Act Relating to Health and Safety– Assisted Living Residence Licensing Act

Dear Chair Murray:

Please accept this letter regarding S 2571, legislation that would require the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) to conduct annual inspections of the units licensed to treat residents with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias that are contained within assisted living residences (ALRs).

R.I. Gen. Laws 23-17.4-10 require all ALRs to be inspected biennially. Currently, RIDOH has 64 licensed ALRs, which amounts to 32 inspections each year. Thirty-four of the 64 ALRs have special care units for Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. If enacted, the proposed legislation would require RIDOH to conduct 49 inspections annually instead of 32, a 53% increase in the required number of inspections.

RIDOH currently has one surveyor who conducts biennial ALR inspections and investigates complaints. This surveyor is also responsible for inspecting organized ambulatory care facilities and adult day cares. With the current inspection workload, adding more inspections would require funding for an additional FTE at a cost of \$121,742 annually. This cost would increase over time due to increases in salaries and fringe benefits. Without additional funding for an FTE, RIDOH would not be able to implement the proposed legislation.

RIDOH believes that conducting additional annual inspections is not likely to improve patient care as it does not require the facility to make any changes to care beyond what is already required in the regulations. Furthermore, RIDOH would continue to conduct complaint inspections if one were received in the interim of the biennial survey. In calendar year 2025, of the 296 total citations in ALRs, only 59 of the citations were related to dementia care or residents of the dementia-care unit.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome M. Larkin". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jerome M. Larkin, MD
Director

CC: The Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
The Honorable Pamela J. Lauria
Kristen Silvia, Director of Legislation and Deputy Chief of Staff
Patricia Resende, Director of Senate Policy