



Testimony of Matthew Netto, AARP Rhode Island
In Support of Senate Bill 2875
Senate Health and Human Services Committee
April 28, 2026

Chairwoman Murray and members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee:

AARP is a nonpartisan, social mission organization with 38 million members nationwide and nearly 125,000 members here in Rhode Island. We advocate on behalf of issues that impact older adults, and we appreciate the opportunity to offer our support for establishing, encouraging and supporting the establishment of family councils and resident councils in assisted living residences providing assisted living services as Senate Bill 2875 from Senator Mack does.

It is AARP policy that states should prohibit facilities from blocking the formation of a resident or family council or from interfering with their meetings or promotion. Senate Bill 2875 addresses this issue by requiring all assisted living facilities support and reasonably accommodate the formation and ongoing operation of a resident council, including by providing reasonable access to meeting space and by recognizing the resident council's right to meet, gather, and communicate

Resident Councils are designed advocate for the needs and interests of the residents of a managed residential community that offers assisted living services; and facilitate open communication between the managed residential community administration, the residents and family and friends of the residents.

Federal law guarantees nursing home residents the right to form resident and family councils, and requires facilities to support those councils with space, staff, and timely responses. Assisted living facilities are not subject to federal oversight, which makes state action all the more important. Senate Bill 2875 brings Rhode Island's assisted living residents closer to the protections their counterparts in nursing homes already enjoy.

We appreciate this legislation's commitment to ensuring that resident councils are supported and available to Rhode Islanders residing in assisted living facilities. AARP Rhode Island supports Senate Bill 2875 and asks you to recommend passage.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Netto".

Matt Netto
Associate State Director-AARP Rhode Island