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To: [SLegislation](#)
Cc: [Senator Sheldon Whitehouse](#); AmoOffice@mail.house.gov
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 2875
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Dear Chair Murray and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Alice Msumba, and I am a Rhode Island resident, caregiver, and board member of the Alliance for Better Long-Term Care. I am writing in **support of SB 2875**.

At its core, this bill is about fairness. Nursing home residents already have the right to form independent resident and family councils. Assisted living residents, who are often equally or more vulnerable, do not have the same right. There is no fair reason for this gap in rights.

It is also about accepting accountability. Resident and family councils are one of the most effective tools for identifying concerns early, improving communication, and ensuring that facilities respond to issues before they escalate. Without these councils, families often feel powerless and isolated, and don't know where to turn for help.

Many states already require assisted living facilities to support resident and family councils and to respond promptly to concerns raised through those avenues. Rhode Island's lack of protections leaves residents without a voice and families without a mechanism to advocate collectively.

For this right to be meaningful, residents and families must be informed about their rights. A bulletin board posting is not enough communication on this topic. Notification must be routine, written, and accessible to residents and families.

I also urge the committee to strengthen the response time requirement. A six-week window is far longer than what other states require and undermines the purpose of the council. Accountability delayed results in accountability being denied.

Nearly half of assisted living residents live with dementia. These residents cannot advocate for themselves individually, and therefore councils give them a collective voice.

I respectfully urge the passage of SB 2875.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind Regards,

Alice Msumba