



April 28, 2026

Dear Chair Murray and Members, Senate HHS Committee,

**RE: Support Statement for S2875**

SACRI is pleased to support S2875 introduced by Senator Mack and co-sponsored by

SACRI's mission is to mobilize people to implement an agenda that improves the quality of life of older Rhode Islanders and adults with disabilities. In thinking about improving *quality of life* promoting high quality long term supports and services for vulnerable residents of our nursing homes and assisted living is a high priority for SACRI.

S2875 requires all assisted living residences to allow for and support the establishment of family and resident councils. We commend Senator Mack for recognizing the importance of putting into law a clear requirement related to family and resident councils as they can have an important role in ensuring that resident rights are protected and for promoting the delivery of quality care.

The role of these councils would be to serve in an advisory and collaborative capacity with the facility to address matters affecting residents generally and to seek mutually acceptable solutions. The councils would not address or resolve individual resident grievances. To support the councils, the assisted living residence would be required to provide reasonable access to meeting space, and a space in a prominent space to post information about the councils.

Assisted Living Residences have changed over the years and now often provide services to residents with higher care needs including those with dementia and who need limited health services. Clarifying in law that all assisted living residences allow for support family and resident councils is an additional way to promote quality, resident-centered care. We urge you to recommend passage and thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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