

April 28, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Murray
Chairwoman, Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02906

Re: S3027 - SUPPORT

Dear Chairwoman Murray and Members of the Committee:

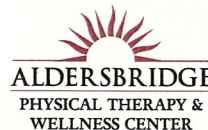
I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill S3027, An Act Relating to Human Services — Medical Assistance — Long-Term Care Service and Finance Reform — Assisted Living Services.

As the Chief Executive Officer of Aldersbridge Communities in East Providence and a board member of LeadingAge Connecticut & Rhode Island, I represent a Rhode Island-based not-for-profit organization deeply committed to providing high-quality assisted living and supportive services to older adults in our community, including those who rely on Medicaid.

Aldersbridge operates four communities, and 8.5 out of every 10 residents we serve is currently on state Medicaid. Often, these are people who transfer from another assisted living after exhausting their funds. We also serve middle- and low-income elders who can no longer afford to stay in their homes. Some come to us after living in their cars, or on the street. We frequently admit older adults who are homeless, struggling with chronic disease.

There are very few organizations in RI that will admit them because there's no money in it. We do it because it's our mission and has been for 55 years. But we won't last much longer without your help. In 2024, our award-winning nursing home closed due to insufficient Medicaid reimbursement. We don't want our assisted living communities to suffer the same fate. If we fail, all 250+ of our residents will end up in emergency rooms, nursing homes, or shelters.

The bill proposes that a stipend (50% of the assigned Medicaid rate) be paid to the providing organization if a resident is out on medical leave for more than 10 days. Many residents have short hospitalizations and return within a few days, and we hold their apartments for them.



ASSISTED LIVING • INDEPENDENT LIVING • ASSISTED LIVING MEMORY CARE • REHABILITATION • SENIOR LIVING CONSULTING

40 Irving Avenue, East Providence, RI 02914 | (401) 438-4456 | [Aldersbridge.org](https://aldersbridge.org)

Aldersbridge Communities is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

We are an equal opportunity provider of elder housing and healthcare.



When the medical leave enters its second week, we feel the financial strain because we are not receiving any payment for those apartments. We still have fixed costs to pay, utilities, insurance, some staff, etc. Senate bill 3027 proposes to pay us a small amount to hold the unit and will cost the state of RI just \$513,000. That's 0.019% of the annual Medicaid expenditure for assisted living.

S3027 addresses a longstanding operational and financial challenge faced by assisted living providers who care for Medicaid recipients. Under current policy, providers are often required to hold units for residents who are temporarily hospitalized or receiving care in a skilled nursing facility—frequently without any reimbursement. This creates significant financial strain and limits our ability to serve other individuals in need of assisted living services.

This legislation establishes a reasonable and balanced framework by limiting unpaid bed hold requirements to ten days and requiring Medicaid bed hold payments for extended absences at a minimum of fifty percent of the resident's reimbursement rate. These provisions recognize the realities of operating assisted living communities while ensuring that residents can return to a familiar setting when appropriate

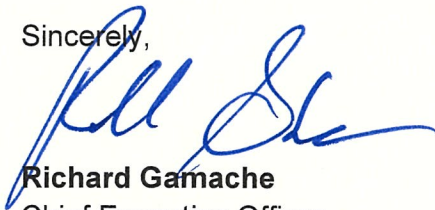
At Aldersbridge Communities, our mission is to provide caring and affordable communities and services so older adults can thrive, living lives with comfort, dignity, self-determination, and grace. Maintaining empty units for extended periods without compensation is not sustainable and ultimately impacts access to care. By creating clearer guidelines and a fair reimbursement structure, S3027 will help preserve access to assisted living for Medicaid beneficiaries across Rhode Island.

Importantly, the bill also preserves flexibility by allowing providers and families to make voluntary arrangements when appropriate and ensures that bed holds apply only when a resident is expected to return. This thoughtful approach balances the needs of residents with the operational realities of providers.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support passage of S3027 to strengthen Rhode Island's assisted living system and ensure continued access to high-quality, community-based care.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Richard Gamache
Chief Executive Officer
Aldersbridge Communities