



April 28, 2026

Subject: SEIU 1199NE Position in Support of S-3027 – Assisted Living Services

Dear Chairwoman Murray and Honorable Members of the Senate Health & Human Services Committee:

On behalf of SEIU 1199NE, representing approximately 7,500 healthcare workers across Rhode Island — including members who work at Aldersbridge, a nonprofit assisted living provider serving Medicaid residents — we write in support of S-3027.

Our members provide hands-on care to residents every day and understand how important stability is in assisted living settings. When residents leave temporarily for hospital care, our members are still responsible for maintaining a safe, prepared environment for their return. The expectation is continuity of care — but the current Medicaid structure does not support that.

Under existing policy, assisted living providers receive no payment when a Medicaid resident is out on medical leave beyond a short period, even though the facility must continue to hold the unit and cover ongoing fixed costs. This stands in stark contrast to private-pay models, where facilities continue to receive full rent regardless of a temporary absence.

For nonprofit providers serving low-income and Medicaid residents, this creates a real financial strain. Facilities still must pay for utilities, insurance, and staffing, while receiving no reimbursement during extended hospitalizations. When multiple residents are out on medical leave at the same time, that strain compounds quickly.

S-3027 provides a reasonable and targeted solution by allowing a stipend equal to 50% of the Medicaid rate after 10 days. This approach recognizes that providers are still incurring costs, without overcompensating them. It helps stabilize providers that serve Medicaid residents in assisted living settings.

From our members' perspective, this kind of stability matters. Financial pressure on facilities often translates into staffing challenges, heavier workloads, and disruptions in care. Supporting

providers in situations like this helps ensure that residents can return to a stable environment and that caregivers can continue delivering consistent, quality care.

S-3027 is a practical step toward strengthening Rhode Island's assisted living system for Medicaid residents, while supporting the workers who make that care possible.

We urge the Committee to pass S-3027.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Alex Moore
Political Director
SEIU 1199NE

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