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To: House Finance Committee
From: Karen Malcolm, Protect Our Healthcare Coalition
Date: March 5, 2025
Re: **OPPOSE H5706 Article 8 Section 4 & Article 10 Section 2**

The Protect Our Healthcare Coalition is a group of leading Rhode Island non-profits and consumer groups with a goal to protect, improve, and expand equitable access to quality, person-centered, affordable health care for all.

Frontline caregivers and essential staff are critical to the wellbeing of nursing home residents. We oppose the language in Article 8 Section 4 and Article 10 Section 2 that broadens the definition of 'direct-care staff' to include not only those workers delivering hands-on resident care but also administrators, supervisors, and managers, among other positions that do not provide direct care.

This flawed classification will artificially inflate staffing ratios, misrepresenting the actual level of direct care provided and undermining the work done by advocates and the General Assembly in previous years to ensure safe staffing ratios that residents in nursing homes need to be safe.

We must demand accountability and improvements in the quality of care in our nursing homes. Therefore, we urge the Committee to remove the language expanding the definition of "direct care staff" and that, to maintain safe staffing and compensation for hands-on caregivers, the definition of "direct-care staff" be modified to explicitly exclude managers, administrators, and supervisors.

Thank you.

Protect Our Healthcare Coalition partners include: Economic Progress Institute, RIPIN, Mental Health Association RI, RI Health Center Association, Latino Policy Institute, Central Providence Opportunities: A Health Equity Zone (CPO-HEZ), United Way of Rhode Island, Senior Agenda Coalition RI, RI Medical Society, Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, SEIU Rhode Island Council, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Leukemia/Lymphoma Society, RI Coalition for the Homeless, Rhode Island Working Families Party, Mental Health Recovery Coalition, RI Community Food Bank, RI Psychological Association, Substance Use & Mental Health Leadership Council, Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families, HousingWorks RI, Rhode Island Organizing Project (RIOP), National Association of Social Workers RI Chapter, The Womxn Project, Advocates for Better Care

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