

Alan L. Richards
Administrator
Eastgate Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

March 4, 2025

House Finance Committee
Rhode Island General Assembly

Subject: HB5076 Article 10 SUPPORT – Alan Richards

Dear Chairperson and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB5076 Article 10. As Administrator of Eastgate Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in East Providence, I see firsthand the challenges that staffing shortages, rising operational costs, and excessive regulatory fines impose on our ability to provide high-quality care to residents.

At Eastgate, we employ over 100 dedicated staff members who care for 60 residents daily. Despite our unwavering commitment to excellence, our facility—and many others across Rhode Island—face mounting financial burdens, including potential fines that would have exceeded \$800,000 for Eastgate alone. Such crushing penalties would not only strain our operations but would ultimately put us out of business, leaving our residents without the care they depend on and our hardworking staff without jobs.

The reforms proposed in Article 10 are critical to ensuring the long-term sustainability of skilled nursing facilities. Increased funding and a fairer regulatory structure will allow us to retain staff, enhance resident care, and continue serving our communities without the constant threat of devastating financial penalties that do nothing to improve quality.

I urge you to support HB5076 Article 10 and advocate for its passage to protect Rhode Island's elderly and disabled populations who rely on skilled nursing care. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Richards', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alan Richards
Administrator
Eastgate Nursing and Rehabilitation Center