

March 5, 2025  
Nicole Jean-Giles, RN  
Providence

**Subject: Opposition to Budget Article 8 (Section 4) and Article 10 (Section 2)**

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Nicole Jean-Giles and I live in Providence. I have been an RN for almost 35 years and have been working in nursing homes in Rhode Island since 1985. My testimony today is in opposition to Budget Article 8 (Section 4) and Article 10 (Section 2).

When I first started working in nursing homes, the job was very different. There was less paperwork to do and the resident needs were easy. We used to provide care to mostly the elderly, they just wanted to sit and talk, and we had time to do that.

Now our residents are younger, sicker, and more demanding. For example, we have a lot more residents with multiple-diagnoses, mental illness, diabetes, hypertension, substance addiction, dementia, Alzheimer's. We have residents in their 20s with mental illness. They require more time and attention. It's a totally different type of nursing.

Not all nursing homes provide the same treatment. When I worked for a nursing home owned by a big, out of state company, each CNA had 11 residents from 7-3. However, at a non-profit run by the United Methodist Church, each CNA had 8 residents. Even 8 residents can be a lot when you have multiple call lights going off, but at least you have more staff on the floor to help.

The residents at the for-profit deserve the same treatment as the residents at the non-profit. Unfortunately greedy companies, paid by our tax dollars, put profit over patient care. That's why we need the General Assembly to protect the Nursing Home Staffing and Quality Care Act and oppose Budget Article 8 (Section 4) and Article 10 (Section 2). We need the state to Raise the Bar so every resident in Rhode Island gets the care they need, whatever nursing home they live in. Thank you.