

April 24, 2024

House Committee on Health and Human Services
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: **In Opposition** of House Bill 8153 – Requiring managed residential communities providing assisted living services to establish Family Councils

Dear Chair Donovan and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

Please accept this letter in **opposition** to House Bill 8153 that would require assisted living residences to establish Family Councils.

Our organization is not in opposition to the concept of Family Councils; in fact, assisted living residences in Rhode Island currently have both informal and formal opportunities for the families of residents to communicate with administrators and others from the management team.

We do, however, disagree that this needs to be mandated. Our residences are facing unprecedented financial pressures, exacerbated by a scarcity of staff and inflationary pressures affecting all aspects of our operations. Our members struggle every day to adequately staff our facilities and keep up with rising costs for services and supplies. For residences that service the Medicaid population, the financial pressures are particularly acute as reimbursement continues to be inadequate.

Given the pressures our industry currently faces, the imposition of another unfunded mandate is challenging. We remain supportive of family councils and can attest that our members are always willing to put together a meeting of family members if requested.

We appreciate the intent of this legislation but ask that your committee understand the truly unprecedented challenges our industry currently faces.