



February 25, 2025

The Honorable Susan Donovan, Chairwoman

Honorable Members of the House Health & Human Services Committee

RE: H5168 – Mandatory Conversion to Renewable Energy - OPPOSED

Dear Chairwoman Donovan and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of LeadingAge Rhode Island, the statewide association representing nonprofit providers of aging services, including nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and home and community-based services, I am writing to express our strong opposition to H5168. While we recognize and support efforts to promote renewable energy, we have serious concerns about the feasibility and financial burden this bill would place on nursing homes at a time when they are already struggling to sustain essential operations.

Under H5168, all healthcare facilities would be required to begin converting from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources by January 1, 2026, as a condition of maintaining their licensure. While the goals of this bill are laudable, the timeline and financial implications are simply unworkable for nursing homes, many of which continue to grapple with workforce shortages, rising operational costs, and inadequate reimbursement rates. The capital investments required for such a transition—such as upgrading infrastructure, installing renewable energy systems, and ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements—would impose an unsustainable financial strain on providers, diverting critical resources away from direct resident care.

We respectfully urge the General Assembly to consider the unique challenges faced by Rhode Island's nursing homes and explore alternative approaches that support renewable energy adoption without jeopardizing the stability of long-term care services. We welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively on policies that promote sustainability while safeguarding the ability of providers to continue serving Rhode Island's most vulnerable populations.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me at fmcMahon@advocacysolutionsllc.com if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Francis X. McMahon".

Francis X. McMahon, Esq.