



Date: March 27, 2025

Dear Chair Donovan and Members

Members, House Health and Human Services Committee,

**Re: Statement in Support of H5169, Relating to Assisted Living Licensing Act
and H5170 Section 1**

The Senior Agenda Coalition of RI is a non-profit organization that works to educate the public and our government officials about the needs of older Rhode Islanders and to advocate for policies and legislation to improve their quality of life.

The Coalition is pleased to support H5169 introduced by Representatives Donovan and section 1 of H5170

H5169 provides for the establishment and support of Resident and Family Councils in Assisted Living Residences. Resident and Family Councils are not intended to pursue individual grievances but rather to be a forum for communication with staff and administration to mutually address and resolve issues and concerns. A Family Council can serve to improve quality of care, ensure resident rights are being protected as spelled out in *RIGL 23-17.4-16. Rights of residents*, and serve as a useful forum to communicate with the facility staff and administration. In addition, the bill provides that after November 2025, advance notice of 120 days be given for any increase in monthly or recurring fees. Private pay assisted living increased nationally by 10% in 2024. According to [CareScout](#), the median cost in Rhode Island is \$7,000/month. Providing sufficient advance notice is important for residents and their representatives to make sound budget decisions.

As the number of persons with Alzheimer's and Related Dementias being cared for in Assisted Living Residences increases and more persons with higher health needs are served in Assisted Living as allowed for those residences with Limited Health Services licenses, the formation of Family and Resident Councils in Assisted Living Facilities can serve as an important vehicle for promoting quality care.

H5170 amends language regarding family and resident councils in nursing homes mirroring the language in H5169 as it relates to resident and family councils

Respectfully submitted,

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