

Steven Sepe

From: Lise Faulise <lise.faulise@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 4:24 PM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Subject: Re: Testimony in support of House Bill 5169, to empower assisted living residents in RI

March 24, 2025

House Committee on Health and Human Services
Rhode Island State House
HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov

Re: Testimony in support of House Bill 5169, to empower assisted living residents in RI

Dear Chair Donovan and Honorable Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony supporting House Bill 5169.

I have had numerous loved ones in assisted living in Rhode Island. Some of their experiences were fairly good, others were quite poor, but all were extremely expensive and all required a lot of advocacy on the part of our family.

When we would complain to administrators about our family member's teeth not being brushed (he had dementia), we were basically gaslighted, and told that they were being brushed daily. His dentist said they were not being brushed regularly, and it was clear to us when we visited that this was true. It wasn't until my family member was moving out that we had an opportunity to talk to family members of other residents and learned that they had complained of the same thing and received the same reply. If we had been able to meet together with other family members, we would have known this and been able to advocate together for better care. This is just one example of many where an independent family council would have helped us advocate more effectively.

In another instance, a family member received notice that her facility was going to have to start charging a monthly fee for toilet paper to any residents who didn't supply their own. Considering what a fancy facility this was, that was a surprise and a disappointment. We got less than 30 days notice of this new fee.

HB5169 doesn't ask anything unreasonable of facilities. All they have to do is be open to independent councils, include notices of their meetings in mailings and calendars, and share the contact info of those who want it shared with the council leadership. It does mean it could be harder for administrators to deny resident and family concerns, but they need that accountability. For the financial parts of the bill, it's just about transparency and giving folks as much notice for increases as other residential tenants are given.

Please give your full support to this important bill. Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Lise Faulise,
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02852

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