

Steven Sepe

From: Marianne Kelly <mkelly5915@ymail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 12:53 PM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Subject: House Bill No. 5169 Assisted Living Resident Empowerment Act

Dear Chair Donovan and Honorable Committee Members,
Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in **support** of House Bill No. 5169, the Assisted Living Resident Empowerment Act

This bill would provide for the reasonable support of family and resident councils in assisted living, 120 days notice for fee/rate increases (in line with rent increase notice for residential tenants over 65) and the disclosure of 3 years of historical rate increases in the Assisted Living Resident Empowerment bill residency agreement.

Assisted living rate increases in RI far outpace inflation, going up as much as 10% in a year. Many people are paying as much as \$10,000/month or more out of pocket, and many people outlive their savings. With transparency of rate history and increased notice requirements for increases, potential residents can better plan for their futures,

Assisted living residences in RI, which are only inspected by RIDOH once every two years have, on average, the same rate of serious deficiencies as nursing homes, and they are never fined for those deficiencies.

While facility administrators say that they support family and resident councils, in practice they discourage the formation of independent councils for the same reason that many employers discourage the formation of unions. A group can advocate more powerfully than an individual.

Residents and their families are frequently surprised by new charges for things that were previously included in their monthly rate. This law would at least give residents time to prepare for that additional \$300/month added to their bill for medication brought to their room.

I am asking you today to vote in favor of House Bill 5169, the Assisted Living Resident Empowerment bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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