



Testimony of Matthew Netto, AARP Rhode Island
In Support of House Bill 5169
House Health and Human Services Committee
March 27, 2025

Chairwoman Donovan and members of the House Health and Human Services Committee:

AARP is a nonpartisan, social mission organization with 38 million members nationwide and nearly 125,000 members here in Rhode Island. We advocate on behalf of issues that impact older adults, and we appreciate the opportunity to offer our support for establishing, encouraging and supporting the establishment of family councils and resident councils in managed residential communities providing assisted living services as House Bill 5169 from Chairwoman Donovan intends to do.

It is AARP policy that states should prohibit facilities from blocking the formation of a resident or family council or from interfering with their meetings or promotion. House Bill 519 addresses this issue by requiring all assisted living facilities authorize and assist in the establishment of resident and family councils. These resident and family councils are designed advocate for the needs and interests of the residents of a managed residential community that offers assisted living services; and facilitate open communication between the managed residential community administration, the residents and family and friends of the residents.

House Bill 5169 would also require facilities to provide 180 days of advanced notice to residents or the resident's representatives for any increase to monthly or recurring fees. Assisted living rate increases in Rhode Island 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. Many older adults live on a fixed budget. Advanced notice of any increase in expenses is vitally important to them and their families for planning purposes.

We appreciate this legislation's commitment to ensuring that resident councils are encouraged and available to Rhode Islanders residing in assisted living facilities. AARP Rhode Island supports House Bill 5169 and asks you to recommend passage. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Netto".

Matt Netto
Associate State Director-AARP Rhode Island
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