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ACLU OF RI POSITION: AMEND

**TESTIMONY ON 25-H 5169,
RELATING TO ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENCE LICENSING ACT
March 27, 2025**

The ACLU of Rhode Island has no position on the substance of this bill establishing resident and family councils in assisted living facilities, but we do wish to suggest two clarifying amendments.

1. The bill bars the resident and family councils from excluding individuals on the basis of “race or color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age or country of ancestral origin.” We assume this is a drafting oversight, but we would urge the inclusion of “gender identity and expression.” [Page 6, lines 1-4; Page 7, lines 29-31]

2. The bill establishes a process for sharing the names, email addresses, and other contact information of residents’ family members or friends with the family council, but it is unclear how that process would work. The bill mentions the right of these individuals “to consent or withhold consent” to the sharing of their personal information, which leaves uncertain whether it is an opt-in or opt-out process. As a general rule, the ACLU believes that, when it comes to the sharing of personal information, people should be required to knowingly opt-in rather than opt out, and we would encourage the bill to clearly reflect that process. [Page 6, lines 24-31]

Thank you for considering our views.