



Rhode Island Health Care Association

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House Bill 5170: Oppose

This testimony is submitted on behalf of the Rhode Island Health Care Association (RIHCA). RIHCA is a trade association that represents sixty-two (62) of the nursing facilities in the State of Rhode Island, representing 80% of the profession.

RIHCA opposes House Bill 5170. This legislation is a solution to two problems that simply do not exist in Nursing Homes in Rhode Island.

First and foremost, nearly 70% of individuals cared for in Rhode Island nursing homes are covered by Medicaid, therefore it is not evident that nursing homes in the state are not discriminating against indigent persons who apply for admission.

In addition, state and federal regulations outline the rights of residents and families to both organize and participate in resident groups without the facility interfering. In fact, facilities are required to provide any resident or family group with a private space to meet, take reasonable steps to make family members aware of upcoming meetings, provide a designated staff person who is approved by the group to be responsible for providing and responding to written request, and the facility must act promptly and consider the views/grievances of the councils.

In our research, we have not found a Rhode Island nursing home to have ever been cited for not following the regulations as they relate to Resident and Family Councils. Thus, passage of such a law would be unnecessary as it is duplicative of current state and federal regulations that nursing homes have historically obliged by.

With that, we request that the committee vote in opposition of House Bill 5170.

Thank you,

Katie Norman, MHA, NHA
Vice President

"Setting the Pace in Nursing Home Care"

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