From:	ssedgwick1960@gmail.com
Sent:	Tuesday, March 25, 2025 8:54 AM
To:	House Health and Human Services Committee
Subject:	SUPPORT HB 5257

Dear Honorable Members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

I write to urge you to support HB 5257 which creates the Nursing Home Workforce Standards Board Act to establish and enforce industry-wide quality of care standards in nursing homes.

- Consisting of direct care staff, resident and family councils, resident advocacy organizations, industry experts, and state regulators, the Nursing Home Workforce Standards Advisory Board would address the industry workforce and care crisis by: establishing workforce standards for staffing and training, promoting quality improvements in resident care, recommending financial transparency measures, making data-driven recommendations to the Rhode Island General Assembly, and reporting regularly to ensure accountability.
- An identical version of this bill passed the General Assembly in the 2024 session — unanimously in the Senate and with only seven votes against in the House. However, Governor McKee vetoed the bill, leaving the crisis unaddressed with no alternative plan.
- Rhode Island ranks second-worst in the country for serious deficiencies of care in nursing homes.
- Over the past five fiscal years, the nursing home industry has obtained around $250 million in taxpayer funding. But many nursing homes still fail to meet staffing and training standards and struggle with persistent quality-of-care issues.
- Mirroring world demographics, Rhode Island has a rapidly aging population. For the first time in history, there are more people over age 64 in the world than children under 5. In Rhode Island, over 31% of residents are age 55 or older, compared to 28% nationally. By 2030, it is estimated that one in four Rhode Islanders will be 65 or older.

Please support this bill and protect our senior citizens.

Thank you!

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