



Alex Moore, Political Director

SEIU 1199NE

319 Broadway

Providence, RI 02909

amoore@seiu1199ne.org

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Testimony in Support of H-5426 – Nursing Home Ownership Transparency

Chair Donovan and Honorable Members of the House Health & Human Services Committee,

On behalf of SEIU 1199 New England, representing more than 1,000 nursing home workers across Rhode Island, we write in support of H-5426 and thank the Department of Health for introducing this important legislation. This bill passed the Senate last year, and we urge the committee to move it forward and bring it to the House floor for a vote.

H-5426 would require nursing home operators to disclose changes in ownership and transfers of key assets, while establishing penalties for noncompliance. These transparency measures are essential in a system increasingly dominated by large, for-profit chains that operate behind complex financial structures.

Many of these companies shift profits into related-party entities—such as real estate, staffing, or management firms they also control—while claiming financial distress and seeking more taxpayer funding. A 2024 report titled *Tunneling and Hidden Profits in Health Care* documents how these practices reduce transparency and divert resources away from frontline care.

Rhode Island must have the ability to track who owns our nursing homes and how public dollars are being used. H-5426 would provide regulators and the public with the tools necessary to ensure accountability and protect both residents and workers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Alex Moore

Political Director, SEIU 1199NE