



March 24, 2025

House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Rhode Island State House  
Househealthandhumanservices@rilegislature.gov

RE: **Testimony in Support of HB 5426: Transparency in Nursing Home Ownership and Asset Transfers**

Dear Chair Donovan and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lori Light, and I serve as the Rhode Island State Long-Term Care Ombudsman. My office advocates solely for the health, welfare, and best interests of residents in long-term care facilities. I am writing in **strong support of HB 5426**, which would require the disclosure of nursing home facility asset transfers and impose penalties for failing to file ownership information.

Transparency in **nursing home ownership and financial transactions** is critical to ensuring **accountability, quality care, and financial stability** in these facilities. Too often, changes in ownership or asset transfers occur without public knowledge, leaving residents, families, and even staff unaware of how these shifts may impact care quality and financial sustainability.

When ownership structures are unclear, it becomes **difficult to track responsibility**, particularly in cases of neglect, mismanagement, or financial instability. We have seen nursing homes close abruptly due to financial mismanagement, leaving residents displaced and families scrambling to find alternative care. Without proper disclosure, regulators and advocates are left in the dark, unable to proactively address risks before they become crises.

**HB 5426 is a necessary step** in protecting residents and ensuring that families, staff, and policymakers have access to critical information about who owns, controls, and financially benefits from nursing homes in Rhode Island. Additionally, penalties for noncompliance will help enforce these requirements and hold facility owners accountable.

Residents and their families deserve **full transparency** about the facilities entrusted with their care. I urge you to support HB 5426 to ensure openness, accountability, and the protection of Rhode Island's most vulnerable citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Lori Light  
Rhode Island State Long-Term Care Ombudsman

**OFFICE OF THE RHODE ISLAND STATE  
LONG TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN**

Located in Alliance for Better Long Term Care, Inc.

422 Post Road Suite 204, Warwick, RI 02888  
**Office:** (401) 785-3340 | **Fax:** (401) 785-3391