



Nursing Home Stabilization Bill Garners Strong Support at Legislative Committee Public Hearing

On Monday, September 11th, the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs held a public hearing, which included testimony on Mass Senior Care's Nursing Home Stabilization Bill, Senate 336 and House 2072 filed by Senator Harriette Chandler and Representative Thomas Golden. This omnibus legislation, which would require the state to take a series of measures to ensure that skilled nursing facilities have the resources necessary to provide quality care to frail elders and disabled individuals who no longer can live safely in the community, received overwhelming support from legislators, the nursing home provider community, and labor advocacy organizations.

Senator Harriette Chandler, co-author of the bill, led the public testimony by noting that the bill has broad bipartisan support in both the House and Senate with over 120 cosponsors. Chandler further noted the bill would make significant investments in quality nursing home care, including moving the state further towards a living wage for direct care workers, and would seek to close the record-high gap between Medicaid payments and the cost of providing quality care.

Matt Salmon, Vice-Chairman of Massachusetts Senior Care Association followed Senator Chandler and emphasized the urgency to stabilize the provider community. Salmon stated that "we are facing an unprecedented financial crisis that is threatening quality resident care." He highlighted a recent financial analysis documenting that three-fourths of the Commonwealth's nursing facilities have a combined negative margin of 4.4%, an indication of a sector on the brink of collapse.

Following Salmon's remarks, three panels of nursing home administrators, staff, CNAs and residents' family members testified on the importance of adequate Medicaid funding to ensure quality nursing home care and the need to invest in our dedicated workforce. In addition, LeadingAge MA, Home Care Aid Council and SEIU 1199 provided written and oral testimony in support of the Nursing Home Stabilization Bill.

The media provided widespread positive coverage of the hearing in regard to the Stabilization Bill, including a State House News Service article, [Mass. Nursing Home Industry Facing Crisis, Industry Says](#), which was published in local papers statewide. In addition, The Lowell Sun published an editorial entitled [State Must Boost Nursing Home Aid](#) and local radio stations aired the story.

Mass Senior Care is appreciative of the legislators, nursing home provider community and advocates who attended and provided compelling testimony at this week's important hearing.