



## Legislative Endorsement

Bill No.	Bill Title	Sponsor(s)	Committee	Legislative history
<a href="#">S.416</a>	<a href="#">An Act strengthening the Attorney General's tools to protect nursing home residents and other patients from abuse and neglect</a>	Lead: Sen. Jason Lewis Others: Atty Gen. Healy Sen. Eldredge Rep. Stanley	<a href="#">Joint Committee on Elder Affairs</a>	Hearing on Sept. 27, 2021  Reporting date extended to May 16, 2022

**Endorsed by 59 members of Dignity Alliance Massachusetts including:**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Judith Aronson</li> <li>Aging Life Care Association, New England Chapter</li> <li>Doris Bardwell, RN</li> <li>Frank E. Baskin</li> <li>Boston Center for Independent Living</li> <li>Grace Breckenridge, MS</li> <li>Kathryn C. Burns</li> <li>Center for Living and Work, Inc.</li> <li>COP Amputee Association, Inc. (COPAA)</li> <li>Disability Law Center</li> <li>Disability Policy Consortium</li> <li>Easterseals Massachusetts</li> <li>Roslyn Feldberg</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Judi Fonsh, LCSW, MSW</li> <li>Wynn Gerhard</li> <li>Nancy Goldstein</li> <li>Greater Boston Legal Services</li> <li>Fred Grosso</li> <li>David Gulette</li> <li>Margaret M. Guilette</li> <li>Dennis Heaphy, Disability Policy Consortium</li> <li>Chris Hoeh</li> <li>Sandy Hovey</li> <li>Anne Johansen</li> <li>Dr. Winston Langley</li> <li>Paul J. Lanzikos</li> <li>James A. Lomastro, PhD</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Massachusetts Advocates for Nursing Home Reform, Arlene Germain, Policy Director</li> <li>Former Senator Richard T. Moore</li> <li>Eric Myrvaagnes</li> <li>Sandy Novack, MBA, MSW</li> <li>Our Bodies Ourselves (aka Boston Women's Health Book Collective, Inc.)</li> <li>Andrea Petersen</li> <li>Susan Rorke</li> <li>Social Solutions and USC School of Social Work</li> <li>Scott Trenti, SeniorCare, Inc. CEO</li> <li>Samantha VanSchoick</li> <li>Dorothy Weitzman, MSW, MA</li> <li>John Womack</li> </ul> |
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**Contact: Richard Moore, Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Legislative Chair, [rmoores743@charter.net](mailto:rmoores743@charter.net)**

<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S416>

**Text:**

Section 72K of chapter 111 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out subsection (b) and inserting in place thereof the following 2 new subsections:-

(b) The attorney general may file a civil action against a person who commits abuse, mistreatment or neglect of a patient or resident or who misappropriates patient or resident property, or against a person who wantonly or recklessly permits or causes another to commit abuse, mistreatment or neglect of a patient or resident or who misappropriates patient or resident property. The civil penalty for such abuse, mistreatment, neglect or misappropriation shall not exceed: \$25,000 if no bodily injury results; \$50,000 if bodily injury results; \$100,000 if sexual assault or serious bodily injury results; and \$250,000 if death results. Section 60B of chapter 231 shall not apply to an action brought by the attorney general pursuant to this section. Nothing in this section shall preclude the filing of any action brought by the attorney general or a private party pursuant to chapter 93A or any action by the department pursuant to this chapter.

(c) Notwithstanding section 5 of chapter 260, the attorney general may file a civil action only within four years next after an offense is committed.

Issued: April 15, 2022; Updated: April 18, 2022

