



Dignity Votes 2022

A Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Initiative

Through the Dignity Votes 2022 initiative, Dignity Alliance Massachusetts has invited candidates for legislative office to respond to a set of questions drafted specifically for the office. Dignity Alliance Massachusetts is a state-wide coalition of aging and disability service and advocacy organizations and supporters dedicated to the systemic transformation of long-term services, support, and care to ensure the dignity of older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers.

Candidate Response – Aaron L. Packard (R) Candidate for the House of Representatives (Third Worcester District)

Question 1. Most Massachusetts residents know someone who has needed long-term services or care due to issues related to aging or disabilities or experienced it themselves.

Has anyone close to you needed nursing home care, congregate living arrangements, or home and community-based services, such as personal care assistants (PCAs)? What implications for public policy and regulatory enforcement do you draw from this experience?

Response to Q1: No response.

Question 2. Please indicate the importance of addressing these issues regarding the provision of care and services to older adults and persons with disabilities.

Response to Q2:

Most important:

- Improving quality of care in nursing homes
- Ensuring transparency of nursing home ownership
- Conducting comprehensive financial audits of nursing homes
- Transformation of nursing home operations (e.g., single room occupancy, smaller units; smaller facilities)
- Expanding home and community-based services
- Developing affordable, accessible housing
- Expanding availability of behavioral health services for older adults and persons with disabilities
- Increasing availability of accessible transportation
- Increasing pay and benefits for direct care workers
- Paying spouses as caregivers
- Updating nursing home resident bill of rights
- Adopting supported decision making as an alternative to guardianship

Question 3: Are there other issues / opportunities to be addressed?

Response to Q3: Secure and properly informed voting assistance.

Brief profile of Aaron L. Packard:

Aaron Packard is a lifelong Massachusetts native. After graduating from Wachusett Regional High School in 1991, He served in the United States Army serving until 1995 on active duty. After being discharged, he worked as a hairdresser and a small engine repair mechanic until 2011 when he was struck by a vehicle suffering a traumatic brain injury. After this injury and years of recovery to regain full physical and intellectual function, he worked in restaurants as a kitchen leader.

www.Packard4staterep.com

Dignity Alliance Massachusetts is a state-wide, grass-roots coalition of aging and disability service and advocacy organizations and supporters dedicated to systemic transformation to ensure the dignity of older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers. We are committed to advancing new ways of providing long-term services, support, living options, and care while respecting choice and self-determination. Dignity Alliance works through education, legislation, regulatory reform, and legal strategies to realize this vision throughout the Commonwealth.