



# 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 – Peter Durant (R) Candidate for the House of Representatives (Incumbent) (Sixth Worcester District)

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**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:** My mother was hospitalized with dementia in the end stages of her life, and I was grateful for the care she was provided. Prior to that we were able to get home health aides to assist her and they were a valuable resource for allowing her to have the best quality of life at home.

**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:**

- Ensuring transparency of nursing home ownership
- Expanding home and community-based services
- Increasing pay and benefits for direct care workers
- Paying spouses as caregivers

**Important:**

- Improving quality of care in nursing homes
- Conducting comprehensive financial audits of nursing homes
- Developing affordable, accessible housing
- Expanding availability of behavioral health services for older adults and persons with disabilities
- Increasing availability of accessible transportation
- Updating nursing home resident bill of rights

**Desirable, but not priority:**

- Transformation of nursing home operations (e.g., single room occupancy, smaller units; smaller facilities)

**Brief profile of Peter Durant:**

Peter Durant was elected to the House of Representatives in a special election in 2011. He began his public service career as a member of the Spencer Finance Committee in 1999 and served as that Board's chairman for three years before being elected to the Spencer Selectboard in 2006. He is a graduate of Northeastern University (BS in Political Science) and the Florida Institute of Technology (Underwater Technology).

<https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/PJD2>

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[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.