



The Dignity Digest

Issue # 149

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The Dignity Digest is information compiled by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts concerning long-term services, support, living options, and care issued each Monday.

Editor's Note

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***May require registration before accessing article.**

Spotlight

My Friend Is Trapped in a Nursing Home. What Can I Do?

By Kwame Anthony Appiah, *New York Times* Ethicist columnist

New York Times (free access)

July 28, 2023

[Trapped in a Nursing Home](#)

Five years ago, I began volunteering as a bill payer for a legally blind, 95-year-old woman on public assistance. The job involved handling paperwork that clients could no longer handle themselves, thus helping enable them to remain at home. I came to learn that this woman had no family or friends left, and she came to think of me as her only friend. During my time with her, she was also put under the care of Adult Protective Services (A.P.S.), because one of her caregivers was fraudulently using her credit card.

Last August, she fell out of bed in the middle of the night. A caregiver found her the next morning and called 911. She was taken to the hospital, treated and then sent to a rehabilitation center in a nursing home. After 100 days, as per her insurance, she was now considered a long-term patient.

She is now 100 years old, blind and lying in bed 24 hours a day, except when I visit her and take her to the patio in a wheelchair. She is in an unfamiliar place and hears screaming, crying, and cursing all night from other patients. She is relatively lucid despite her circumstances, and the only thing that is keeping her alive is the hope that she can go back to her small studio apartment soon, a place where she has lived for 50 years. She has said she wants to die if she can't go home.

Because she was protected by A.P.S. and is now in a guardianship arrangement under the care of the nursing home, I can no longer legally pay her bills or take care of any paperwork. This has meant that her rent has not been paid, and eviction proceedings are in the works. I have tried to get myself listed as a contact for her, to at least be able to advocate for better services but have come up against a wildly frustrating Catch-22 situation. She has been deemed incompetent by the nursing home and therefore can't name me as a contact. I requested to have her evaluated again, because I don't believe she is incompetent, and the answer was that only her contact can make that request.

My question to you is, Do I tell her the truth, that she is never going

	<p><i>home? Will taking away that hope make her give up her will to live? And should her will to live be based on a false premise? The social worker at the nursing home won't even talk to me, because I am not a legal contact, and so the decision to tell her the truth lies with me; she has no one else. — Name Withheld</i></p> <p>From the Ethicist:</p> <p>This story is heartbreaking and, I fear, all too common, as “kinless” older adults grow in number. All sorts of factors play a role, some benevolent. These include an attitude toward elder care that puts safety ahead of freedom, and the well-intended use of provisions, like the guardianship process, that deny people their autonomy. Nursing homes aren't always unaffected by financial incentives, either: the hundred days of rehabilitation that Medicare can mostly cover followed by the Medicaid-funded long-term care that, at a lower rate, still keeps a bed filled. Petitioning to have patients deemed incapacitated, with guardianship assigned to a third party, can make bill collection easier, too. What's unusual here, I suspect, is mainly that you're around to bear witness to it.</p> <p>There might be an institutional temptation to keep her in the dark so that she will be easier to manage. But it's her life. She has a right to know as much of what is happening to her as she can understand and a right to respond accordingly. First, though, be sure that she has exhausted her options.</p> <p>You can try to convey your concerns to a long-term-care ombudsman, who, by federal law, serves as an advocate for residents. Your state probably also has an elder-abuse center and elder-advocacy groups that you could consult. This woman simply wants to live out her days in her own home. That shouldn't be too much to ask.</p> <p>Yet her options, and yours, are sadly limited. There's a need for systemic reform here. “We are too easily willing and able to justify radical measures such as guardianship and do not yet have more humane, dignified solutions in place,” Laura Mosqueda, an elder-care and elder-abuse expert at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California, tells me about cases like the one you describe. As our bodies and minds grow frail, conflicts arise between protecting us and respecting us; institutional arrangements meant to save us from misery can end up inflicting it.</p> <p>To submit a response: ethicist@nytimes.com. Trapped in a Nursing Home</p>
Quotes	<p><i>“[A]ccess intimacy” [is] an idea that reorients our approach from one where disabled people are expected to squeeze into able-bodied people’s world, and instead calls upon able-bodied people to inhabit our world.”</i></p> <p>Disability-justice educator Mia Mingus, <i>I Have a Choice to Make About My Blindness</i>, *New York Times, August 5, 2023, About My Blindness</p>

“To be blunt about it, the people most impacted by heat are not the kind of voting demographic that gets any politician nervous. They’re unsheltered people, poor people, agricultural and construction workers. People like Sebastian Perez are just seen as expendable. They’re not seen as humans who need to be protected. Racism is absolutely central to the government’s failure to protect vulnerable people.”

Jeff Goodell, author of [The Heat Will Kill You First: Life and Death on a Scorched Planet](#), *Racism at heart of US failure to tackle deadly heatwaves, expert warns*, **The Guardian**, August 6, 2023, [Racism at Heart](#)

“Bathing, cooking, lifting, and moving him, cleaning him. It’s all physical. It’s a lot of sweat.”

Tony Hedgepeth, a home health aide in Richmond, VA, *Heat Is Costing the U.S. Economy Billions in Lost Productivity*, ***New York Times**, July 31, 2023, [Heat Is Costing](#)

“The truth is that the changes required probably will be very costly, and they will get passed on to employers and consumers, but if we don’t want these workers to get killed, we will have to pay that cost.”

David Michaels, who served as assistant secretary of labor at OSHA during the Obama administration and is now a professor at the George Washington School of Public Health commenting on necessary actions in response to heat emergencies, *Heat Is Costing the U.S. Economy Billions in Lost Productivity*, ***New York Times**, July 31, 2023, [Heat Is Costing](#)

“I know that statistically speaking, in 10 years, I’m gone. So, whatever I fight for now, I am not going to be the benefactor. It’ll be for the next generation.”

Elisabeth Stern, 75, a member of the KlimaSeniorinnen in Zurich, Switzerland and an avid hiker, *Heat Waves Are Killing Older Women. Are They Also Violating Their Rights?*, **New York Times (free access)**, August 6, 2023, [Killing Older Women](#)

Should we find anybody abusing, harassing, maiming these older persons, I can assure you the necessary punishment would be inflicted on whoever does that.”

Joseph Motari, Kenya’s principal secretary for social protection and senior citizens affairs, *BBC Africa Eye: Elderly caned at Kenya’s PCEA Thogoto Care Home for the Age*, **BBC News**, August 6, 2023, [BBC Africa Eye Elderly Caned](#)

Looking beyond novel technology to strengthen current privacy laws may give a more holistic view of the many threats to privacy, and what freedoms need defending.

New neurotechnology is blurring the lines around mental privacy – but are new human rights the answer?, **The Conversation**, August 7, 2023, [New neurotechnology](#)

“Until every veteran in this country knows what is available to him or her, and has come in and filed a claim, and then we’ve awarded that claim for him or to her, I won’t be satisfied.”

Veterans Affairs Secretary [Denis McDonough](#), *Veterans see historic expansion of benefits for toxic exposure as new law nears anniversary*, **AP News**, August 6, 2023 (updated), [Historic expansion](#)

“It’s all about opportunity and the chance for people like me and people my age to [express themselves through fashion](#) like any able-bodied person. It says a lot about [who I am on the inside](#), and adaptive clothing allows me to do that.”

Oliver Scheier, an 18 year old who was born with muscular dystrophy, *Clothes for kids with disabilities get better, but teens see a lack of fashionable options*, **AP News**, August 4, 2023, [Clothes for kids with disabilities](#)

Modernizing the Older Americans Act – What it means and how you can comment
(Recorded session)

1. National Council on Aging

Modernizing the Older Americans Act – What it means and how you can comment

Recorded on Thursday, August 3, 2023

Speakers:

- Dianne Stone, Associate Director of Network Development and Engagement, Modernizing Senior Centers Resource Center and NISC National Council on Aging
- Marci Phillips, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy at the National Council on Aging
- Amy Wiatr-Rodriguez, Director, Center for Regional Operations, Administration for Community Living
- Kathleen Cameron, Senior Director, Healthy Aging SME, National Council on Aging
- Genevieve Waterman, Director, Corporate Partnerships & Engagement,

	<p>National Council on Aging Presentation Slides Modernizing the OAA</p>
<p>Moving Forward Coalition</p>	<p>2. Moving Forward Coalition The Coalition has developed nine Action Plans for nursing home quality improvement. Each contains a strategy to improve the quality of life and work of nursing home residents and staff.</p> <p>Addressing Residents’ Goals, Preferences & Priorities Develop and/or adapt a data-supported, tech-enabled process for collecting goals, preferences, and priorities (GPPs), documenting them in a care plan, and measuring the degree to which the care provided meets them.</p> <p>Strengthening Resident Councils Assemble and test a guide for nursing home teams to establish and sustain an engaging and inclusive resident council.</p> <p>Improving Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Wages & Support Work with individual states and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to expand and fully finance the inclusion of workforce compensation metrics in state quality incentive payment programs.</p> <p>Expanding Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Career Pathways Work with workforce training and development leaders to design and pilot a standardized CNA career pathway reflecting the federal Registered Apprenticeship program framework.</p> <p>Enhancing Surveyor Training on Person-Centered Care To conduct a state demonstration project to pilot test and evaluate an enhanced surveyor training approach to resident-directed living.</p> <p>Designing a Targeted Nursing Home Recertification Survey Work with at least one state survey agency to develop a data-driven, two-day targeted recertification survey that will help agencies improve overall capacity, focus on nursing homes with a history of quality challenges or non-compliance, and respond to resident needs and specific complaints more promptly.</p> <p>Increasing Transparency & Accountability of Ownership Data Design and pilot a nationally applicable blueprint for ownership transparency that makes meaningful data available and accessible.</p> <p>Developing a Nursing Home Health Information Technology Readiness Guide Develop an interactive guide to help nursing home providers navigate evolving data and payment requirements, expectations, and digital capabilities, while building a case for federal incentives for nursing home health IT adoption.</p> <p>Financing Household Models & Physical Plant Improvements Promote policies in one or more states and with one or more federal agencies to introduce incentives for and investment in nursing home physical plant improvements and conversion to household models.</p> <p>Access All Nine Action Plans Together This document combines all nine plans into one place for easy printing, reading, and sharing. (86 pages)</p> <p>Join a Conversation Over the next couple of months, the Coalition will dedicate a discussion on each Action Plan. For schedule and registration, see: https://movingforwardcoalition.org/taking-action/#SignUp The sessions are open to anyone. All events are free. If you miss one of the <i>Coalition Conversations</i>, access YouTube channel for a recording.</p>

	<p>For video introduction by Alice Bonner, Coalition Chair a former Secretary of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UuexWSbmKs</p>
The Community Health Equity Survey	<p>3. Massachusetts Department of Public Health <i>The Community Health Equity Survey</i> What is the goal of the survey? The Community Health Equity Survey will help communities improve conditions that impact health, particularly those most impacted by health inequities. The survey was developed in collaboration with community members and partners across Massachusetts, and it reflects what residents want to know about how their communities experience housing, mental health, safety, and other drivers of health. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health and our partners will use CHEI data to allocate funding, improve programming, and develop policies that address health inequities.</p> <p>How long will the survey be open for and who can take it? The survey will be open from July 31, 2023, through early Fall 2023. Anyone aged 14 and older can take the survey. It takes approximately 15-30 minutes to complete and is available in 11 languages: Arabic, Cape Verdean Creole, Chinese (simplified or traditional), English, Haitian Creole, Khmer, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese. The survey will also be available in ASL later this summer.</p> <p>What support is available for my organization to disseminate this survey? We've developed dissemination materials such as sample emails, Frequently Asked Questions, flyers, a resource list, and more that you can use to help us spread the word. Additional materials will be tailored to different communities and made available in the coming weeks. These are available on our website here.</p> <p>How and when can I access this data? We strive to make this process as simple and transparent as possible. Results will be publicly available on our website soon after the survey closes in Fall 2023, and we are committed to providing partners like yourself with resources to use the data to take action that addresses barriers to health in your community. Click here to access the survey.</p>
Webinars and Online sessions	<p>4. National Council on Aging Wednesday, August 16, 2023, 2:00 p.m. <i>Protecting Yourself from Payment Scams in the Virtual World</i> In this webinar, participants will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get tips to protect themselves and their money. • Identify payment scams and keep their money secure. • Discuss ways to keep older adults safe from payment scams and how caregivers can help. <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genevieve Waterman (Moderator), Director, Corporate Partnerships & Engagement, National Council on Aging • Crystal Thomas, Vice President of Brand and Marketing for Zelle® at Early Warning <p>Registration: Protection from Scams</p>
Previously posted webinars and online sessions	<p>Previously posted webinars and online sessions can be viewed at: https://dignityalliancema.org/webinars-and-online-sessions/</p>
Housing	<p>5. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)</p>

	<p><i>Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Guides on Housing & Home Equity</i></p> <p>As the Baby Boomer generation ages, the average age of homeowners trends older as well. Unlike the generation before them, many baby boomers are retiring with greater amounts of debt, without pensions, and without sufficient savings. For many older adults, their home is their largest source of wealth. They may need to tap into that source of wealth to pay for their living expenses in retirement and ultimately, their long-term care. So how can older adults utilize their home equity to cover expenses and protect this source of wealth as they age?</p> <p>The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) developed the following four “just in time” guides to assist older adults in navigating this question.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of a spouse/partner: Losing a spouse or partner can affect every aspect of a person’s life, including housing. This guide helps homeowners consider their options and determine whether staying in their current home makes the most sense. • How to navigate a change in health: Whether a homeowner is currently going through a medical crisis or facing one, it is important for them to consider housing options that provide care and support. This guide helps homeowners assess their needs, navigate available housing options, and gives them the confidence to make the right decision for their situation. • How to leave home to children/heirs: Many homeowners want to hand down their home to their children or other heirs when they die. Planning ahead can simplify the process, lessen costs, and potentially decrease family conflicts. This guide helps homeowners evaluate the different ways to pass down their home and discusses benefits and risks. • Using home equity to meet financial needs: Owning a home is most people’s greatest asset and can be a resource for greater financial security. This guide describes the benefits and risks associated with financial products that the homeowner may use to meet retirement shortfalls, pay for long-term supports and services, and age in place. <p>The guides are available to download in English and will soon be available in eight other languages.</p>
Veteran Affairs	<p>6. AP News August 6, 2023 (updated) <i>Veterans see historic expansion of benefits for toxic exposure as new law nears anniversary</i> By Chris Megerian [Nicole] Leger, [former Army medic,] is one beneficiary of the largest expansion of veterans assistance in decades, and the administration is racing to sign up as many people as possible as the first anniversary of the law approaches. Although there’s no deadline to apply, anyone who files a claim or simply signals the intent to do so by Wednesday could collect payments retroactive to last year if the claim is approved.</p> <p>Under the law, certain cancers and ailments are presumed to be connected to the burn pits that were used to dispose of trash and potentially toxic materials. For veterans who served during the Vietnam War, hypertension and other conditions were added to the list of problems presumed to be caused by exposure to Agent Orange, which was used by the U.S. military to clear vegetation.</p>

	<p>Biden will mark the law’s anniversary at a Veterans Affairs hospital in Salt Lake City on Thursday. According to administration statistics, the Department of Veterans Affairs has received nearly 786,000 disability claims under the PACT Act, processed almost 435,000 and approved more than 348,000. . .</p> <p>About 111,000 veterans who are believed to have toxic exposure have enrolled in VA health care since the law was enacted. In addition, more than 4.1 million veterans have completed toxic screenings, which are questionnaires to analyze their potential exposure and determine whether additional tests are required. Implementing the legislation has proved challenging for the VA despite hiring new staff to accommodate a historic influx of claims. The backlog is about 266,000, meaning waits of at least four months for claims to be processed, and the list is expected to grow to 450,000 in October and 730,000 in April. During a recent oversight hearing. Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., expressed concern about “bad trends.” . . .</p> <p>In the past year, the VA has expanded by more than 21,000 health care workers and 4,300 employees for processing benefits.</p> <p>But officials said the process remains too slow. Bringing on a new health care worker can take several months as the VA checks backgrounds and certifications, a delay that can lead candidates to find jobs elsewhere.</p> <p>Historic expansion</p>
Disability Topics	<p>7. *New York Times August 5, 2023 <i>I Have a Choice to Make About My Blindness</i> By Andrew Leland</p> <p>I recently visited a local Mexican restaurant with my family. It was the first time we’d gone out together for a meal since the start of the pandemic. As I gazed up at the familiar menu boards hanging behind the counter, I realized with some dismay that I could no longer read them.</p> <p>I could still make out the headlines — information I already knew, like the fact that the restaurant served burritos and tacos and beverages. But all the text below those headings was indecipherable. This has become a common occurrence as I enter the late stages of retinitis pigmentosa, an untreatable degenerative retinal disease that over decades has been destroying my vision. In that moment, I had a choice: I could pull out my phone and try to use its magnification or text-to-speech capabilities to read the menu or ask my family for help. There’s a powerful tension between the independence facilitated by assistive technologies, and the possibility of interdependence that can emerge from the exchange between disabled and non-disabled people. This tension has never been more pronounced than today, when advances in technology stand to usher in an unprecedented era of independence for disabled users.</p> <p>In the last few years, a new category of technology for the blind has emerged, called “visual interpreters.” With the Be My Eyes app, a blind person can point her phone at something she can’t see — a pair of pants, for instance, which may or may not match her shirt — and connect her phone’s camera to the screen of a sighted volunteer who can talk her through the situation. Even if, technically speaking, the blind person is still relying on someone else for help, the anonymity and digital frictionlessness of the app experience creates the feeling of an automated solution to the problem.</p> <p>Advances in machine vision, like the astonishingly powerful image-recognition capabilities of modern A.I., are erasing even these human actors from the</p>

equation. This year, Be My Eyes released a beta version of a service called the Virtual Volunteer, which replaces the human at the other end of the line with A.I. (powered by OpenAI's GPT-4 model). A blind beta tester [pointed](#) his camera at a frozen meal, and the A.I. read him the description of the contents on the package, including the date of expiration and the size of the meal.

But the pitfalls of artificial intelligence are as present in the assistive-tech sphere as they are in the rest of society. As delighted as blind beta testers of OpenAI's visual interpreter were, it also made some obvious mistakes: As [Kashmir Hill recently reported](#) in The New York Times, OpenAI confidently described a remote control for a blind user, including descriptions of buttons that weren't there. When another beta tester showed the tool the contents of a fridge, asking for recipe ideas, it recommended "whipped cream soda" and a "creamy jalapeño sauce." And OpenAI [recently decided to blur people's faces](#) in the photos that the blind beta testers were uploading, severely limiting the Virtual Volunteer's social utility for a blind user.

The visual world of information that is inaccessible to blind people is impossibly vast — think of every image, video, and text that's uploaded to the internet, let alone all the information that fills our offline world. (According to the World Blind Union, 95 percent of the world's published knowledge is "locked" in inaccessible print formats.) This infinitely refreshing storehouse of information, most of it difficult if not impossible for people with visual or print disabilities to get access to, makes a universal technological solution seem like the only path forward. But in spite of technology's well-documented power to transform the lives of people with disabilities, it cannot be the only solution.

Machine-vision bots have begun to automatically describe images online, but the results are still wildly variable — on Facebook, when my screen reader encounters photos of my friends and family, it invariably offers howlers like "image may contain: fruit." If people wrote their own image descriptions, I'd get a much clearer sense of what was going on, with far more context. Likewise, companies such as accessiBe and AudioEye have amassed millions of dollars offering "accessibility overlays" and widgets that claim to automatically fix websites that are broken for its disabled users (and thus help the sites avoid costly A.D.A. lawsuits) with a few lines of A.I.-generated code. But frequently, [accessibility overlays have made websites even more difficult](#) to navigate for blind users. The solution, many advocates suggest, is to rely less on A.I., and instead to hire human accessibility experts to design websites with disability in mind at the outset. Again, people must remain part of the process.

Waiting in line for dinner this summer, I felt unwilling to pull out my phone to use any of the cybernetic solutions available to help me decipher the menu. I decided to just ask my wife, Lily, to tell me about the taco options. Our son, Oscar, who's 10, interrupted her: Let me do it! He proudly read the various taco descriptions to me, and we both set to discussing which ones sounded good. Relying on Oscar to read the menu didn't feel anything like a loss of independence. It was a fun, affectionate dialogue — a shared experience with a loved one, which was, beyond basic sustenance, the real reason we were there. His eyes and ears and brain had far superior sensors than any assistive device out there, and he's far more charming to interact with.

Independence is essential for everyone, and especially for disabled people, whom the world tends to look at with pity, revulsion, and exceedingly low expectations. I'm eager to see how technology enables independence in entirely

	<p>new ways. But there is irreplaceable value in interdependence, too — the feeling of shared experience that comes when two people interact and exchange ideas and abilities. Oscar may have read me the menu, but I helped him interpret it and figure out what he wanted to eat, too.</p> <p>I think this is what the disability-justice educator Mia Mingus means when she talks about “access intimacy” — an idea, she says, that “reorients our approach from one where disabled people are expected to squeeze into able-bodied people’s world, and instead calls upon able-bodied people to inhabit our world.” I know that A.I. will be transformative in its ability to restore some of the independence that blindness threatens to take from me. But I hope I won’t lose sight of this other experience, too, of the moments of intimacy and exchange that appear when two people come together to collectively explore parts of the world they couldn’t have encountered, in quite the same way, on their own.</p> <p>About My Blindness</p> <p>8. AP News August 4, 2023 <i>Clothes for kids with disabilities get better, but teens see a lack of fashionable options</i> By Leanne Italie Mindy Scheier was working in fashion before her son, Oliver, was born with muscular dystrophy. As he grew, and she watched him struggle to get dressed, her eyes were opened to her industry’s limitations for people with disabilities. . . Now, Scheier dedicates herself to raising awareness about the need for designers and retailers to embrace adaptive clothing through her Runway of Dreams Foundation and Gamut Management talent and consulting agency. Scheier has brought on board some of the largest U.S. brands and retailers. While adaptive clothes, shoes and other gear have made strides in the last few years, more in the industry need to get involved, she said. . . It’s also about including people with disabilities in the design process, taking care to offer such things as hidden openings for medical ports, tubing and bags, or less bulk in the front and a higher rise in the back of pants for wheelchair users. Dressing without help is made easier with things like pull-on loops at the sides of skirts and pants, and wider necks on pullover shirts.</p> <p>Clothes for kids with disabilities</p>
<p>Medical Topics</p>	<p>9. The Conversation August 7, 2023 <i>New neurotechnology is blurring the lines around mental privacy – but are new human rights the answer?</i> By Laura Y. Cabrera, Associate Professor of Neuroethics, Penn State Neurotechnologies – devices that interact directly with the brain or nervous system – were once dismissed as the stuff of science fiction. Not anymore. Several companies are trying to develop brain-computer interfaces, or BCIs, in hopes of helping patients with severe paralysis or other neurological disorders. Entrepreneur Elon Musk’s company Neuralink, for example, recently received Food and Drug Administration approval to begin human testing for a tiny brain implant that can communicate with computers. There are also less invasive neurotechnologies, like EEG headsets that sense electrical activity inside the wearer’s brain, covering a wide range of applications from entertainment and wellness to education and the workplace. Neurotechnology research and patents have soared at least twentyfold over the</p>

	<p>past two decades, according to a United Nations report, and devices are getting more powerful. Newer BCIs, for example, have the potential to collect brain and nervous system data more directly, with higher resolution, in greater amounts, and in more pervasive ways.</p> <p>However, these improvements have also raised concerns about mental privacy and human autonomy – questions I think about in my research on the ethical and social implications of brain science and neural engineering. Who owns the generated data, and who should get access? Could this type of device threaten individuals’ ability to make independent decisions? . . .</p> <p>Another thought-provoking debate around neurotechnology deals with cognitive liberty. According to the Center for Cognitive Liberty & Ethics, founded in 1999, the term refers to “the right of each individual to think independently and autonomously, to use the full power of his or her mind, and to engage in multiple modes of thought.”</p> <p>More recently, other researchers have resurfaced the idea, such as in legal scholar Nita Farahany’s book “The Battle for Your Brain.” Proponents of cognitive liberty argue broadly for the need to protect individuals from having their mental processes manipulated or monitored without their consent. They argue that greater regulation of neurotechnology may be required to protect individuals’ freedom to determine their own inner thoughts and to control their own mental functions. . .</p> <p>Looking beyond novel technology to strengthen current privacy laws may give a more holistic view of the many threats to privacy, and what freedoms need defending.</p> <p>New neurotechnology</p>
<p>Emergency Preparedness: Heat</p>	<p>10. New York Times (free access) August 6, 2023 <i>Heat Waves Are Killing Older Women. Are They Also Violating Their Rights?</i> By Isabella Kwai</p> <p>The women live scattered around Switzerland, speak a mix of the country’s languages — German, French and Italian — and have worked in varying professions.</p> <p>But the KlimaSeniorinnen Schweiz, a group of about 2,400 Swiss women aged 64 and over, say they have a common fear: soaring temperatures and heat waves that are threatening them with health ailments in their final decades.</p> <p>“It is difficult to go outside — it is difficult to breathe,” said Fatima Heussler, 71, a member of the group who lives in Zurich, who retired after several decades of working with visually impaired older people. Last year’s summer heat was so tiring, she said she could not do even light household chores.</p> <p>“I feel like I need to protect myself,” said Isabelle Joerg, 70, a former insurance risk manager and a member of the group from Basel, who says she sits in the dark with the blinds drawn at her home on particularly hot days. “I used to love summer — and now I can be threatened by it.”</p> <p>A heat wave this summer that sent temperatures soaring in southern Europe has highlighted those concerns — along with a landmark lawsuit that the women filed in 2020 at Europe’s top human rights court accusing the Swiss government of violating their fundamental rights by not doing enough to protect them from the effects of climate change.</p> <p>Switzerland experienced its hottest year on record last year, and though it has not been battered as much as southern Europe this year, a hot spell early last</p>

[month](#) sent temperatures as high as 98 degrees Fahrenheit in some Alpine areas. The national average last month was about 60 degrees, about 35 degrees higher than pre-1900 records.

The case, the first of its kind to be heard at that top court, the European Court for Human Rights, is among a growing number of lawsuits around the world using human rights grounds to argue that governments are shirking their obligations, as temperatures and sea levels rise, to ensure the safety and security of citizens.

Similar cases have come before national courts and human rights bodies, including a finding by a [United Nations human rights committee](#) that Australia had failed to protect Indigenous Australians in the Torres Strait, in the north of the country, from “the adverse impacts of climate change.”

While climate change is affecting all Swiss people, the KlimaSeniorinnen Schweiz — known in English as the Senior Women for Climate Protection Switzerland — say that older women like them are the most vulnerable.

One recent study found that last summer’s heat waves [killed more than 61,000 people](#) across Europe, most of them women over 80. In Switzerland, more than 60 percent of about 600 heat-related deaths last summer were attributed to global warming, according to a [study](#) from the University of Bern, with older women having the highest mortality rate.

“Our health is at risk,” said Elisabeth Stern, 75, a member of the KlimaSeniorinnen in Zurich and an avid hiker, who said she had kept herself fit and healthy her whole life. Last summer, sick of staying indoors with the windows shut, Ms. Stern, a former cultural anthropologist, visited the cooler mountains for a reprieve. But she collapsed in a cable car, overcome by the heat. “There was a time when Switzerland was a cold place in general,” said Ms. Stern, who spent part of her childhood on a farm in Switzerland’s east and has watched a nearby [glacier](#) disappear in her lifetime. “It just has changed so rapidly.” Experts say a ruling in the case brought by the KlimaSeniorinnen will most likely influence how the 46 countries that are members of the European court will handle similar claims.

“This will have a domino effect,” said Annalisa Savaresi, a senior lecturer for environmental law at the University of Stirling, in Scotland, who has studied climate change litigation. “It’s the first of its kind to be heard, but there are many others in the pipeline.”

The litigants in the Swiss case include four women who said they had heart and respiratory diseases that put them at risk of death on hot days.

The crux of the complaint is a charge that the Swiss government’s failure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions enough to prevent global warming of 2 degrees Celsius is at odds with its obligations under the European Human Rights Convention. Those include rights to life and autonomy, given that older women have been proved to be particularly vulnerable to heat-related illnesses.

“What this would give citizens is an additional tool to name and shame these states and make their grievances visible and, eventually, enforceable,” Dr. Savaresi said. But, she added, how such rulings could be imposed remain in “uncharted territory.”

The case was initially brought to [domestic courts](#) in 2016, with the Swiss Supreme Court ruling that there was not enough evidence to prove that women’s rights had been violated. The litigants say that those courts did not properly analyze the case, so they took it higher, to the European Court of

Human Rights.

The Swiss government has argued that international law does not give individuals rights to be protected from climate change, and that addressing its effects should be a political, rather than legal, process. It declined to comment further on the proceedings for this article, saying that it was waiting for the judgment.

Other governments, like Ireland's, have also given arguments in the case on behalf of the Swiss government, while several rights groups have supported the litigants.

Marc Willers, one of the lawyers involved, said the litigants felt a moral obligation to pursue the case. If Switzerland, one of the richest and most technologically advanced countries in the world, did not step up to tackle climate change, he said, "what hope is there that other countries will fill the gap?"

Experts say that Europe will experience more frequent and more intense heat waves in the future, and that Switzerland is particularly vulnerable and is warming at more than [double the rate](#) of the global average. Its glaciers melted last year [at a faster rate](#) than ever recorded, and dwindling winter snow in Alpine villages has been devastating for [popular ski resorts](#).

That urgency has sent climate change to the top of the political agenda, with [climate activists](#) saying that the country is not doing enough to meet its obligations under the Paris Agreement, the 2015 treaty aimed at reducing global emissions.

In June, Swiss voters passed a referendum that would require Switzerland to reach a net zero emissions target by 2050.

Many women in the KlimaSeniorinnen, which is affiliated with Greenpeace, are longtime activists who have also taken up the mantle of reducing emissions in their daily lives.

Ms. Heussler, of Zurich, says she rarely travels, does not own a car, and grows her own vegetables. But she mostly gave up gardening during last year's heat waves, except for during the earliest hours of the day.

Ms. Joerg, of Basel, said she was excited to retire several years ago. "I thought, 'Finally, no job, no work, no agenda,'" she said, "'I can do whatever I want.'" Instead, during heat waves in recent years, she has stayed indoors, unable to go out to see friends or otherwise socialize. "That makes me angry," she said.

A ruling in the KlimaSeniorinnen's case is not expected until next year. The court is also considering several other climate change-related cases, including one filed by a group of young Portuguese who have accused 33 countries of not upholding their human rights obligations by failing to curb emissions, and by a French citizen who has brought a similar case against the French government. But as they wait and try to go about their lives, the members of KlimaSeniorinnen say they are hopeful that the case can demonstrate that older people can be powerful climate advocates, even if they may not be around for the future.

"I know that statistically speaking in 10 years, I'm gone," said Ms. Stern, the avid hiker. "So, whatever I fight for now, I am not going to be the benefactor." She added, "It'll be for the next generation."

[Killing Older Women](#)

11. The Guardian

August 6, 2023

Racism at heart of US failure to tackle deadly heatwaves, expert warns
 By Nina Lakhani
 Racism is at the heart of the American government’s failure to tackle the growing threat of deadly heatwaves, according to the author of an authoritative new book on the heating planet [[The Heat Will Kill You First: Life and Death on a Scorched Planet](#)]. . .
 According to [Jeff] Goodell, the risks faced by mostly Black and brown workers also reveal enduring elements of scientific racism previously used to justify forcing enslaved African people to do backbreaking farm work in the scorching south. “There were all kinds of crazy racist ideas like African people having thicker bones in their skulls that insulated them from heat. While nobody talks about that explicitly now, it is absolutely an undercurrent that having Mexicans pave roads in Austin in 107F [42C] is fine because they’re from Mexico and used to it.
 “It’s not just about these vulnerable people who can’t vote or the incompetence of the government, it is out and out racism.”

[Racism at Heart](#)

12. *New York Times

July 31, 2023
Heat Is Costing the U.S. Economy Billions in Lost Productivity
 From meatpackers to home health aides, workers are struggling in sweltering temperatures and productivity is taking a hit.
 Now that climate change has raised the [Earth’s temperatures](#) to the [highest levels](#) in recorded history, with projections showing that they will only climb further, new research shows the impact of heat on workers is spreading across the economy and lowering productivity.
 Extreme heat is regularly affecting workers beyond expected industries like agriculture and construction. Sizzling temperatures are causing problems for those who work in factories, warehouses, and restaurants and also for employees of airlines and telecommunications firms, delivery services and energy companies. Even home health aides are running into trouble. . .
 A [study](#) published in June on the effects of temperature on productivity concludes that while extreme heat harms agriculture, its impact is greater on industrial and other sectors of the economy, in part because they are more labor-intensive. It finds that heat increases absenteeism and reduces work hours, and concludes that as the planet continues to warm, those losses will increase. . .
 Tony Hedgepeth, a home health aide in Richmond, Va., cares for a client whose home thermostat is typically set at about 82 degrees. Last week, the temperature inside was near 94 degrees.
 Any heat is a challenge in Mr. Hedgepeth’s job. “Bathing, cooking, lifting and moving him, cleaning him,” he said. “It’s all physical. It’s a lot of sweat.” . . .
 “The truth is that the changes required probably will be very costly, and they will get passed on to employers and consumers,” said David Michaels, who served as assistant secretary of labor at OSHA during the Obama administration and is now a professor at the George Washington School of Public Health.
 “But if we don’t want these workers to get killed, we will have to pay that cost.”

[Heat Is Costing](#)

Consumer Information

13. National Council on Aging
4 Steps You Can Take to Get Help Paying for Your Utility Bills

	<p>Key Takeaways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High inflation is putting the squeeze on older Americans who are already struggling to afford their heating and cooling bills. • If you don't qualify for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) program, you may be eligible for other types of energy assistance. • Read the article for tips on finding utility bill forgiveness, rate discounts, and other relief options in your area. <p>Paying Utility Bills</p>
International Reports	<p>14. BBC News August 6, 2023 <i>BBC Africa Eye: Elderly caned at Kenya's PCEA Thogoto Care Home for the Age</i> By Njeri Mwangi in Nairobi & Tamasin Ford in London</p> <p>Vulnerable residents at a care home for the elderly near Nairobi, Kenya's capital, have been mistreated and neglected, a BBC Africa Eye investigation has revealed.</p> <p>Secret filming shows staff members physically mistreating residents, dumping food directly onto tables without any plates, and leaving medical conditions untreated.</p> <p>"Hit her on the buttocks. Beat her," a member of staff urges a stick-wielding colleague, at the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) Thogoto Care Home for the Aged, about 20km (12 miles) west of Nairobi.</p> <p>The undercover footage shows that moments before, three staff dressed in purple uniforms, surround an old woman by a metal gate flanked by sheets of corrugated iron at the perimeter of the home's garden. . .</p> <p>This is just one example of evidence of mistreatment uncovered in the BBC Africa Eye investigation.</p> <p>The care home was set up by the Women's Guild of the local PCEA church but is now managed independently. It is home to around 50 elderly women and men. Over the last decade, the number of homes for the elderly is reported to have almost tripled in Nairobi. Many don't charge rent and are supported by local churches or rely on donations.</p> <p>In the next 30 years the elderly population in Africa is projected to triple from 75 million to 235 million, according to the United States Census Bureau report from 2020.</p> <p>Its growth will be faster than in any other region of the world, making the prospect of sending elderly relatives to a care home a reality for an increasing number of families. . .</p> <p>The reporters filmed further examples of apparent neglect and mistreatment, including medical conditions being left untreated. One elderly man was suffering with a serious skin problem. . .</p> <p>One of the undercover reporters filmed an elderly woman using her hands to eat food left directly on the table without a plate because she was unable to feed herself with a spoon.</p> <p>A former care worker said they witnessed similar scenes, describing how staff told her not to assist residents with their meals.</p> <p>"They told me not to help them today because no-one would help them tomorrow," she says.</p> <p>An undercover reporter secretly filmed a conversation with a staff member about staff not feeding vulnerable residents.</p> <p>Watch the full documentary Betrayed: Elderly Care Exposed on BBC Africa's</p>

	YouTube channel BBC Africa Eye Elderly Caned
Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Legislative Endorsements	<p>Information about the legislative bills which have been endorsed by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, including the text of the bills, can be viewed at: https://tinyurl.com/DignityLegislativeEndorsements</p> <p>Questions or comments can be directed to Legislative Work Group Chair Richard (Dick) Moore at rmoore8473@charter.net.</p>
Websites	
Previously recommended websites	<p>The comprehensive list of recommended websites has migrated to the Dignity Alliance MA website: https://dignityalliancema.org/resources/. Only new recommendations will be listed in <i>The Dignity Digest</i>.</p>
Previously posted funding opportunities	<p>For open funding opportunities previously posted in <i>The Tuesday Digest</i> please see https://dignityalliancema.org/funding-opportunities/.</p>
Websites of Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Members	<p>See: https://dignityalliancema.org/about/organizations/</p>
Nursing homes with admission freezes	<p>Massachusetts Department of Public Health <i>Temporary admissions freeze</i></p> <p>There have been no new postings on the DPH website since May 10, 2023.</p>
Massachusetts Department of Public Health Determination of Need Projects	<p>Massachusetts Department of Public Health <i>Determination of Need Projects: Long Term Care</i> 2023 Navigator Homes of Martha's Vineyard, Inc. – Long Term Care Substantial Capital Expenditure Royal Wayland Nursing Home, LLC – Conservation Long Term Care Project 2022 Ascentria Care Alliance – Laurel Ridge Ascentria Care Alliance – Lutheran Housing Ascentria Care Alliance – Quaboag Berkshire Healthcare Systems, Inc. – Windsor Long Term Care Conservation Fairlawn Rehabilitation Hospital-Hospital/Clinic Substantial Capital Expenditure Long Term Centers of Lexington – Pine Knoll – Long Term Care Conservation Long Term Centers of Wrentham – Serenity Hill – Long Term Care Conservation Next Step Healthcare LLC-Conservation Long Term Care Project Royal Falmouth – Conservation Long Term Care Royal Norwell – Long Term Care Conservation Wellman Healthcare Group, Inc 2020 Advocate Healthcare, LLC Amendment Campion Health & Wellness, Inc. – LTC - Substantial Change in Service Heywood Healthcare, Inc. – Hospital/Clinic Substantial Capital Expenditure Notre Dame Health Care Center, Inc. – LTC Conservation 2020 Advocate Healthcare of East Boston, LLC. Belmont Manor Nursing Home, Inc.</p>

List of Special Focus Facilities

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

List of Special Focus Facilities and Candidates

<https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram>

Updated March 29, 2023

CMS has published a new list of Special Focus Facilities (SFF). SFFs are nursing homes with serious quality issues based on a calculation of deficiencies cited during inspections and the scope and severity level of those citations. CMS publicly discloses the names of the facilities chosen to participate in this program and candidate nursing homes.

To be considered for the SFF program, a facility must have a history (at least 3 years) of serious quality issues. These nursing facilities generally have more deficiencies than the average facility, and more serious problems such as harm or injury to residents. Special Focus Facilities have more frequent surveys and are subject to progressive enforcement until it either graduates from the program or is terminated from Medicare and/or Medicaid.

This is important information for consumers – particularly as they consider a nursing home.

What can advocates do with this information?

- Include the list of facilities in your area/state when providing information to consumers who are looking for a nursing home. Include an explanation of the SFF program and the candidate list.
- Post the list on your program’s/organization’s website (along with the explanation noted above).
- Encourage current residents and families to check the list to see if their facility is included.
- Urge residents and families in a candidate facility to ask the administrator what is being done to improve care.
- Suggest that resident and family councils invite the administrator to a council meeting to talk about what the facility is doing to improve care, ask for ongoing updates, and share any council concerns.
- For long-term care ombudsmen representatives: Meet with the administrator to discuss what the facility is doing to address problems and share any resources that might be helpful.

Massachusetts facilities listed (updated March 29, 2023)

Newly added to the listing

- Somerset Ridge Center, Somerset
<https://somersetridge rehab.com/>
Nursing home inspect information:
<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225747>
- South Dennis Healthcare
<https://www.nextstephc.com/southdennis>
Nursing home inspect information:
<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225320>

Massachusetts facilities not improved

- None

Massachusetts facilities which showed improvement

- Marlborough Hills Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, Marlborough
<https://tinyurl.com/MarlboroughHills>
Nursing home inspect information:
<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225063>

	<p>Massachusetts facilities which have graduated from the program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Oxford Rehabilitation & Health Care Center, Haverhill https://theoxfordrehabhealth.com/ Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225218 • Worcester Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, Worcester https://worcesterrehabcare.com/ Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225199 <p>Massachusetts facilities that are candidates for listing (months on list)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charwell House Health and Rehabilitation, Norwood (15) https://tinyurl.com/Charwell Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225208 • Glen Ridge Nursing Care Center (1) https://www.genesishcc.com/glenridge Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225523 • Hathaway Manor Extended Care (1) https://hathawaymanor.org/ Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225366 • Medway Country Manor Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation, Medway (1) https://www.medwaymanor.com/ Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225412 • Mill Town Health and Rehabilitation, Amesbury (14) No website Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225318 • Plymouth Rehabilitation and Health Care Center (10) https://plymouthrehab.com/ Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225207 • Tremont Health Care Center, Wareham (10) https://thetremontrehabcare.com/ Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225488 • Vantage at Wilbraham (5) No website Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225295 • Vantage at South Hadley (12) No website Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225757 https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram
<p><i>Nursing Home Inspect</i></p>	<p>ProPublica <i>Nursing Home Inspect</i> Data updated November 2022</p>

	<p>This app uses data from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Fines are listed for the past three years if a home has made partial or full payment (fines under appeal are not included). Information on deficiencies comes from a home’s last three inspection cycles, or roughly three years in total. The number of COVID-19 cases is since May 8, 2020, when homes were required to begin reporting this information to the federal government (some homes may have included data on earlier cases).</p> <p>Massachusetts listing: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/state/MA</p> <p>Deficiencies By Severity in Massachusetts (What do the severity ratings mean?)</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th># reported</th> <th>Deficiency Tag</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>250</td> <td>B</td> </tr> <tr> <td>82</td> <td>C</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7,056</td> <td>D</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1,850</td> <td>E</td> </tr> <tr> <td>546</td> <td>F</td> </tr> <tr> <td>487</td> <td>G</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31</td> <td>H</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>I</td> </tr> <tr> <td>40</td> <td>J</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>K</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>L</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	# reported	Deficiency Tag	250	B	82	C	7,056	D	1,850	E	546	F	487	G	31	H	1	I	40	J	7	K	2	L
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Nursing Home Compare	<p>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) <i>Nursing Home Compare Website</i></p> <p>Beginning January 26, 2022, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is posting new information that will help consumers have a better understanding of certain staffing information and concerns at facilities. This information will be posted for each facility and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff turnover: The percentage of nursing staff as well as the number of administrators who have stopped working at a nursing home over the past 12-month period. • Weekend staff: The level of weekend staffing for nurses and registered nurses at a nursing home over a three-month period. <p>Posting this information was required as part of the Affordable Care Act, which was passed in 2010. In many facilities, staffing is lower on weekends, often meaning residents have to wait longer or may not receive all the care they need. High turnover means that staff are less likely to know the residents, recognize changes in condition, or implement preferred methods of providing care. All of this contributes to the quality-of-care residents receive and their quality of life.</p> <p>https://tinyurl.com/NursingHomeCompareWebsite</p>																								
Data on Ownership of Nursing Homes	<p>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services <i>Data on Ownership of Nursing Homes</i></p> <p>CMS has released data giving state licensing officials, state and federal law enforcement, researchers, and the public an enhanced ability to identify common owners of nursing homes across nursing home locations. This information can be linked to other data sources to identify the performance of facilities under common ownership, such as owners affiliated with multiple nursing homes with a record of poor performance. The data is available on nursing home ownership will be posted to data.cms.gov and updated monthly.</p>																								

<p>Long-Term Care Facilities Specific COVID-19 Data</p>	<p>Massachusetts Department of Public Health <i>Long-Term Care Facilities Specific COVID-19 Data</i> <i>Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) reports related to long-term care facilities in Massachusetts.</i></p> <p>Table of Contents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 Daily Dashboard • COVID-19 Weekly Public Health Report • Additional COVID-19 Data • CMS COVID-19 Nursing Home Data 		
<p>DignityMA Call Action</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MA Senate released a report in response to COVID-19. Download the DignityMA Response to Reimagining the Future of MA. • Advocate for state bills that advance the Dignity Alliance Massachusetts' Mission and Goals – State Legislative Endorsements. • Support relevant bills in Washington – Federal Legislative Endorsements. • Join our Work Groups. • Learn to use and leverage Social Media at our workshops: Engaging Everyone: Creating Accessible, Powerful Social Media Content 		
<p>Access to Dignity Alliance social media</p>	<p>Email: info@DignityAllianceMA.org Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/DignityAllianceMA/ Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/dignityalliance/ LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/dignity-alliance-massachusetts Twitter: https://twitter.com/dignity_ma?s=21 Website: www.DignityAllianceMA.org</p>		
<p>Participation opportunities with Dignity Alliance Massachusetts</p> <p>Most workgroups meet bi-weekly via Zoom.</p> <p>Interest Groups meet periodically (monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly).</p> <p>Please contact group lead for more information.</p>	<p>Workgroup</p>	<p>Workgroup lead</p>	<p>Email</p>
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	<p>Behavioral Health</p>	<p>Frank Baskin</p>	<p>baskinfrank19@gmail.com</p>
	<p>Communications</p>	<p>Pricilla O'Reilly Lachlan Forrow</p>	<p>prisoreilly@gmail.com lforrow@bidmc.harvard.edu</p>
	<p>Facilities (Nursing homes)</p>	<p>Arlene Germain</p>	<p>agermain@manhr.org</p>
	<p>Home and Community Based Services</p>	<p>Meg Coffin</p>	<p>mcoffin@centerlw.org</p>
	<p>Legislative</p>	<p>Richard Moore</p>	<p>rmoore8743@charter.net</p>
	<p>Legal Issues</p>	<p>Jeni Kaplan</p>	<p>jkaplan@cpr-ma.org</p>
	<p>Interest Group</p>	<p>Group lead</p>	<p>Email</p>
	<p>Assisted Living and Rest Homes</p>	<p>In formation</p>	
	<p>Housing</p>	<p>Bill Henning</p>	<p>bhenning@bostoncil.org</p>
	<p>Veteran Services</p>	<p>James Lomastro</p>	<p>jiplomastro@comcast.net</p>
	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Frank Baskin Chris Hoeh</p>	<p>baskinfrank19@gmail.com cdhoeh@gmail.com</p>
	<p>Covid / Long Covid</p>	<p>James Lomastro</p>	<p>jiplomastro@comcast.net</p>
	<p>Incarcerated Persons</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>info@DignityAllianceMA.org</p>
<p>The Dignity Digest</p>	<p>For a free weekly subscription to <i>The Dignity Digest</i>: https://dignityalliancema.org/contact/sign-up-for-emails/ Editor: Paul Lanzikos</p>		

	<p>Primary contributor: Sandy Novack MailChimp Specialist: Sue Rorke</p>
Note of thanks	<p>Thanks to the contributors to this issue of <i>The Dignity Digest</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suzanne Lanzikos • Dick Moore • Dorothy Weitzman <p>Special thanks to the MetroWest Center for Independent Living for assistance with the website and MailChimp versions of <i>The Dignity Digest</i>.</p> <p><i>If you have submissions for inclusion in <u>The Dignity Digest</u> or have questions or comments, please submit them to Digest@DignityAllianceMA.org.</i></p>
<p><i>Dignity Alliance Massachusetts is a broad-based coalition of organizations and individuals pursuing fundamental changes in the provision of long-term services, support, and care for older adults and persons with disabilities. Our guiding principle is the assurance of dignity for those receiving the services as well as for those providing them. The information presented in “The Dignity Digest” is obtained from publicly available sources and does not necessarily represent positions held by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts.</i></p> <p><i>Previous issues of The Tuesday Digest and The Dignity Digest are available at: https://dignityalliancema.org/dignity-digest/</i></p> <p><i>For more information about Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, please visit www.DignityAllianceMA.org.</i></p>	