

FY '25 Budget House Budget Final

Debate on the House version (H4600) of the Governor's FY '25 State Budget (H2) was enacted on April 26, 2024 in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Here's a final report on how Dignity's budget priorities fared.

Dignity Alliance endorsed - As reported by the House Committee on Ways and Means

4000-0300 Includes language proposed by Dignity Alliance and SEIU 1199 to authorize no less than the amount and services available in the current fiscal year to preserve the PCA program

4000-0601 Includes language for nursing home bed hold as recommended by Dignity Alliance.

4513-1076 Includes language to respond to increasing older adult suicides as recommended by Dignity Alliance

9110-9002 Includes increasing Council on Aging grants from \$14 to \$15 per person over age 65 as recommended by Dignity Alliance and Mass COA.

Dignity Alliance endorsed - As APPROVED by the full House during debate

Item #1168 - PACE Workforce Elder Service Plan (in Consolidated Amendment B ADOPTED) Increases line item by \$150,000 for Harbor Health for the operation of its PACE program in Mattapan, Brockton and any communities with Harbor Health service contracts.

Item #621 – Senior Nutrition, Meals on Wheels – increased by \$50,000, but not as much as requested. (in Consolidated Amendment B – ADOPTED)

Item # 9110-1900 \$160,000 to Outstanding Life, Inc. for the operation of a statewide virtual senior center for LGBTQIA+ older adults, plus other senior center earmarks in various communities. (in Consolidated Amendment B – ADOPTED)

Item #358 – Funding for the above line item increased by the referenced \$160,000. (in Consolidated Amendment B – ADOPTED)

Item #788 – Veteran Center funding for multiple outreach centers, overall line item also supports older adults and people with disabilities in crisis. (Consolidated Amendment A – ADOPTED)

Section 49A - Directs Mass Health to notify each individual age 55 and over of options for enrolling in voluntary programs including PACE, SCO and OneCare if approved by CMS (in Consolidated Amendment B - ADOPTED)

Section 49A-Directs Mass Health to provide each beneficiary age 65 and over with annual notice of enrolling in voluntary programs including PACE, SCO and OneCare if approved by CMS (in Consolidated Amendment B - ADOPTED)

Dignity Alliance endorsed - As included by reference in a Consolidated Amendment, but not actually included in the budget. This means they are no longer under consideration.

Items 70 – clarifying rate-setting processes for home health and home care agencies, 854 – Roadmap to health care safety, , 1042 asset limit for seniors MassHealth, 1168, 182 – senior planning retirement curriculum, 382 increased funding for EMHOTs, 427 - elder supportive housing, 428- home care purchase of services, 432 – home care case management, 1364 – public participation for process (IAE), 1293 – Requip, 1407 – Independent Living Center. 1312 – Personal Needs Allowance, 1367 – Study on impact of extreme heat on older adults 380 HST Advisory Committee, 667 – AHVP, 1158 – increase of PNA.

NEXT STOP – SENATE WAYS AND MEANS AND THE FULL SENATE!