



Supportive Housing

The supportive housing program is provided through a partnership with the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, ASAPs, and local housing authorities who operate state and federally funded elder housing

We advocate expansion of this partnership to more sites throughout the Commonwealth.

We also advocate that when vacancies are created that priority be given to individuals who are presently in nursing homes, who are homeless, and / or in need of personal care and support services.

Conversion of nursing homes

During the past three years since July 2021, 18 nursing homes have closed or in the process of closing. Many of them are in established neighborhoods with access to community resources such as retail stores, restaurants, and public transportation which makes them ideal for conversion to affordable, accessible, supportive housing for older adults and persons with disabilities.

We advocate for a policy that promotes and supports conversion of closed nursing homes to supportive housing.

Anti-bullying

Bullying is pervasive in elder housing throughout the Commonwealth. DignityMA urges support for House 1329, An Act to prevent and respond to bullying of older adults and people with disabilities in public housing which is under consideration by the Joint Committee on Housing.

Support of Provisions within H. 4138

The provisions of the bill providing for increased investment in public housing should also focus on the inventory of units of local housing for the elderly projects, many of which we constructed in the 1960's. This type of housing would benefit from more units designed for people with disabilities with or without supportive services. Given global

warming, the units should also be equipped to address extreme heat issues as well. We also advocate that policies be reviewed and revised regarding the timing of conversion of heating and cooling systems during the change of seasons.

We also support the \$60 million for the Home Modification Program and for new “community-based” housing for people with disabilities and encourage expansion.

Lastly, we support the provisions in the bill regarding the promotion and development of accessory dwelling units in all communities throughout the state.

Testimony offered by:

[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.