



For immediate release

For more information:  
Paul Lanzikos  
978 210 1331  
[paul.lanzikos@gmail.com](mailto:paul.lanzikos@gmail.com)

## Milestone long-term care reform legislation signed into law praised by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts

On September 26, Governor Maura Healey ceremonially signed milestone legislation reforming the long-term care sector in Massachusetts. On September 6, she officially signed into law [H 5033, \*An Act to improve quality and oversight of long-term care\*](#), as [Chapter 197 of the Acts of 2024](#).

Among its many provisions, the law strengthens the licensure process for long-term care facilities under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Health (DPH). Each of the 345 nursing homes in the Commonwealth will be inspected at least once every nine to 15 months and the schedule of financial penalties has been increased for the first time in decades.

Management and ownership transparency and accountability have been increased. Owners or management companies with at least 5 percent controlling interest in a facility are required to disclose pertinent information to DPH, including criminal and civil litigation histories, statements of financial capacity, bankruptcy filings, loan defaults, the appointment of a receiver, and the recording of a lien.

Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Coordinator Paul Lanzikos praises the legislation and thanks legislative leadership, especially the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs Co-Chairs, Senator Patricia Jehlen and Representative Thomas Stanley, Senate President Karen Spilka, and House Speaker Ronald Marino.

“Chapter 197 is the most significant law affecting long-term care enacted in over four decades,” Lanzikos noted. “This is the first phase of three to ensure that nursing home residents and staff receive high-quality, safe, and personalized care. This step must be followed up with the promulgation of comprehensive and robust regulations by DPH and other state agencies as soon as possible. Most importantly, the law and regulations must be rigorously enforced in a timely manner. Massachusetts’ older and disabled residents deserve nothing less.”

Looking ahead, Lanzikos said that Dignity Alliance Massachusetts will be pursuing a variety of actions to further the interests of older adults, persons with disabilities, and their caregivers including strengthening nursing home residents’ rights, establishing rights for assisted living residents, increasing the personal needs allowance for nursing home residents for the first time in over forty years, and helping to implement the [Marsters](#) class action settlement agreement which is intended to have at least 2,400 nursing home residents return to homes in the community over eight years.

#30#

---

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.