



# The Dignity Digest

Issue # 203

September 3, 2024

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

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

## DignityMA Zoom Sessions

Dignity Alliance Massachusetts participants meet via Zoom every other Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. Sessions are open to all. To receive session notices with agenda and Zoom links, please send a request via [info@DignityAllianceMA.org](mailto:info@DignityAllianceMA.org).

## Spotlight

### **[Statement of Senator Patricia Jehlen, Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Elder Affairs, regarding the passage of H 5033, the long-term care reform bill.](#)**


*This statement was made during the Senate session held on August 29, 2024.*

Sen. Jehlen of Somerville was recognized to speak remotely. Around a minute of silence passed before her voice came over the audio system.

Speaking over the phone, Sen. Jehlen said, Thank you, Mr. President. I wish I were there. It wouldn't be so complicated. I'm so happy and grateful to be here virtually to take up this important and comprehensive bill. It incorporates several bills we worked on for many years. It will save lives and improve lives of residents and workers in long-term care facilities, provide more options for assisted living, and improve financing options for older people living with disabilities. It's such a complicated bill because it now includes several other bills. Most people don't know about all the provisions so I'll explain their importance, unfortunately at length. We don't all agree on everything, but we have been able to reach an agreement that will help so many people. Thanks are also due to the many people who have called, written and testified about the conditions they've seen in too many nursing homes. And finally, this would not have happened without the press covering stories of neglect and abuse. Many people were shocked by the groundbreaking Globe report starting in 2010 about the overuse of antipsychotic drugs for care and the expansion of for-profit chains. Most recently, there's been a lot of regional coverage about homes in South Hadley and Northampton. And the Provincetown Independent has done deep reporting on poor care as well as finances of the area's for-profit nursing home, the only one on the Cape within 30 miles. There has been less coverage of the people in the homes that provide essential and excellent care. But anyone who has ever had a relative in a nursing home knows how vital good care is, and how crucial and often underappreciated and under-compensated individual caregivers are and I'll always remember the CNA who helped make my father's life more meaningful in his last year. We've all been focused on the disaster

of Steward hospitals. The trend toward for-profit companies gaining a larger and larger share of nursing homes, home care agencies and hospices is equally troubling and needs attention. They too often extract the value from these important organizations by cutting staff, not paying bills, selling the buildings to related REITs, and paying exorbitant fees and rents and then closing or being closed. In just 13 years, Massachusetts lost 23 percent of its nursing home beds, even while the population of older adults is growing fast. The task force made recommendations to ensure the survival of essential quality homes with regional availability, while ensuring that those that closed in the future were those with low census and low quality. We issued the report, unfortunately in 2020 just before the pandemic, and then all of us focused on the immediate crisis during which up to one quarter of nursing facility residents died. The pandemic revealed starkly that nursing homes were unprepared to stop the spread of disease. Even nursing homes with high ratings lost many residents and workers. The legislature has supported additional funding with some accountability on spending, and the Healey and Baker administrations have worked to keep essential nursing homes afloat while trying to ensure that those that enclosed were low quality and less regionally important. Since the task force, 100 percent of the 31 closures -- 31 closures in the last three and a half years -- 100 percent of those closures have had one or two stars, the lowest ratings. But there's a lot more that's needed. This bill will increase capital funding for nursing homes, and will require updating the base rate every two years. It will also expand the tools that DPH has by allowing more oversight and particularly the inclusion of suitability standards. Those standards will allow DPH to limit, restrict, suspend, or revoke a license, or deny a license or a license transfer. They can also appoint temporary facility managers for troubled facilities. It increases the civil penalties the attorney general can seek by 10 times. Instead of \$25,000 for a death, it will go to \$250,000. Also the fines that DPH can levy for noncompliance with regulations. Right now, the maximum fine is \$50 a day, the same as the minimum fine for a speeding ticket. I want to recognize that gentleman from New Bedford who has pushed to increase fines and to require bed holds for many years. Finally, it also requires regular inspections and outbreak response plans, and sets standards for special care units. So, adequate and targeted payment, plus more accountability, is a major goal and what has been most focused on by the press. But this bill also incorporates an assisted living bill, which will make permanent the temporary allowance for assisted living residences to offer basic health services. Assisted living residences are certified by Elder Affairs, not the Public Health Department, and they're generally considered non-medical facilities. They all have nurses on staff, but they can't do simple things like administering eye drops or

insulin injections. So when someone needed those things, things most people can do for themselves or their family members, they had to hire another nurse or get family members to come in and help them, or they had to move to a nursing home at more expense, as well as the disruption of moving. During the pandemic, there has been a temporary allowance for assisted living nurses to provide those services. It expires next March. There have been no cases of bad results in those assisted livings that offer those services. This bill continues that option for assisted living residences to offer those services. It also requires more disclosure of ownership, and provides for fines in case of failure to follow regulations. Another bill we've worked on for years, incorporated in this one, requires regulations to create small house nursing homes which serve 14 or fewer residents in more home-like environments and more safety from disease and more dignity. Yet another bill incorporated here is the LGBTQ bill of rights for nursing home residents, banning discrimination and requiring training of staff. And this came out of the work of the LGBTQ aging commission. Another important bill incorporated here addresses special needs pooled trusts. People with disabilities under 65 can transfer their resources to a trust to reduce their assets so they can qualify for MassHealth. That money can be used for needs like home care, home adaptations, personal items, assisted living expenses. For 30 years, until this spring, MassHealth allowed seniors with disabilities to establish and use pooled trusts, and we need to restore that option. It's important to notice that any unexpended money from these trusts is sent back to MassHealth when the person dies. There's a new requirement in the bill that insurers must approve or deny prior authorization for transfer of patients from hospitals to nursing homes within one business day. This will prevent the common experience of patients being stuck in hospitals waiting for insurance approval. Finally, the bill limits estate recovery from Medicaid and common health recipients to the limits the federal government requires. This will prevent family members from losing their homes where they had cared for their disabled relatives, and prevent generational impoverishment. The bill also creates task forces and studies to inform our next steps, that include task forces to examine issues like hospital throughput, long term care eligibility, rest homes, CCRCs, and further LR reforms. We need to strengthen all the pieces of the entire continuum, from home care to adult day health to rest homes to assisted living to nursing homes, and we need to continue to address the workforce crisis. This is incredibly important, comprehensive and long-needed legislation. But there's much that remains. I hope the House passes, and we take up, the home care licensure bill. We need to make permanent the provision for holding beds for nursing home residents who leave for medical care, instead of making it depend on annual budgets. We need to

	<p>increase the personal needs allowance, which has not been raised for over 30 years. We need to make sure DPH has the resources and the will to use the tools we are giving them to ensure quality care. And finally, it's important to restore the Elder Affairs secretary to the Cabinet. The Elder Affairs secretary is now the only secretary not in the Cabinet, and that role needs to have the recognition and the responsibility to bring the intersecting needs of older adults into all discussions. Today is a wonderful and long-needed step forward, and I want to thank everyone involved and hope and expect it will be enacted today.</p>
<p><b>Quotes</b></p>	<p><i>“[The long-term care reform bill (<a href="#">H 5033</a>)] will save lives and improve lives of residents and workers in long-term care facilities, provide more options for assisted living, and improve financing options for older people living with disabilities.”</i></p> <p>Senator Patricia Jehlen (D-Somerville), Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs, <a href="#">Statement of Senator Patricia Jehlen</a>, <b>State House News</b>, August 29, 2024</p> <p><i><a href="#">Americans 55 and over control nearly 70 percent of U.S. household wealth, compared with about 50 percent in 1989.</a></i></p> <p><a href="#">Trekking 85 Miles With Grandpa, Scuba Diving With Grandma</a>, <b>New York Times (free access)</b>, August 19, 2024)</p> <p><i>“When we see patients admitted to the hospital with COVID these days, they’re almost always patients who have other underlying diseases. Some degree of immunocompromised, some degree of heart or lung disease, that makes them more vulnerable.”</i></p> <p>Mary Frances Barthel, Chief Quality Safety Officer for Blessing Health System in Quincy, IL, <a href="#">COVID cases rise at Illinois Veterans’ Home; health officials urge public to revisit latest protocols</a>, <b>WGEM</b>, August 28, 2024</p>
	<p><b>National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care</b></p> <p><a href="#">The Power of My Voice</a></p> <p><b>Residents’ Rights Month</b>, held in October, is an opportunity to focus on and celebrate the dignity and rights of every individual receiving long-term services and supports.</p> <p>Residents have the right to self-determination and to use their voice to make their own choices. This year's Residents' Rights Month theme, <a href="#">The Power of My Voice</a>, emphasizes self-empowerment and recognizes the power of residents being vocal about their interests, personal growth, and right to live full, enriching lives.</p> <p><b>The Resident's Voice Challenge - Submissions Due September 1</b></p>

	<p>Residents of long-term care facilities are encouraged to get creative in demonstrating the power of their voice. Use these questions to inspire you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>What makes you feel empowered?</b></li> <li>• <b>What types of interests, hobbies or activities enrich your life?</b></li> <li>• <b>How do you use your voice to empower yourself and others?</b></li> </ul> <p>Consider using a unique medium to share your voice – make a video or audio recording describing what makes you feel empowered or what enriches your life, read a piece of original poetry or a short story, play original music or sing a song, show and tell us about your artwork, etc.</p> <p><b>How to Submit</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Read the full <a href="#">Resident's Voice Challenge Criteria</a> before submitting.</li> <li>2. Email submissions to <a href="mailto:info@theconsumervoice.org">info@theconsumervoice.org</a>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Include a mailing address with your submission for residents to receive certificates of participation.</li> <li>○ Submissions featuring photo or videos must include completed <a href="#">release forms</a> for each resident.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>									
<p><b>DignityMA Asks the Candidates</b></p>	<p>To inform older adults, persons with disabilities, family members, and caregivers about legislative candidates' positions on issues of interest, Dignity Alliance Massachusetts (DignityMA) has prepared <a href="#">The Dignity Dozen</a>, twelve questions regarding key issues and proposals.</p> <p>Questionnaires have been distributed to all <b>candidates who have competitive primary contests</b>. Candidate responses will be posted on the DignityMA website. <i>Primary Election Day is Tuesday, September 3rd.</i></p> <p>Questionnaires to all candidates on the November 5th general election ballot will be distributed after primary election day.</p> <p><b>Responses received</b> (click on the name to view responses):</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Candidate</td> <td>District</td> <td>Website</td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">Alexander Jablon</a></td> <td>Rep: 11th Middlesex</td> <td><a href="#">Jablon website</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">David Martin</a></td> <td>Rep: 1st Bristol</td> <td><a href="#">Martin website</a></td> </tr> </table>	Candidate	District	Website	<a href="#">Alexander Jablon</a>	Rep: 11th Middlesex	<a href="#">Jablon website</a>	<a href="#">David Martin</a>	Rep: 1st Bristol	<a href="#">Martin website</a>
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<p><b>Boston Center for Independent Living 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</b></p>	<p><b>BCIL's 50th Anniversary!</b></p> <p>Saturday, September 21, 2024, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>Reggie Lewis Track and Athletic Center, 1350 Tremont Street, Boston</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will celebrate our shared history and honor our founders with a special presentation by people who helped start BCIL in 1974.</li> <li>• Enjoy special performances by <a href="#">DEAFinitely</a> and <a href="#">Tunefoolery</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The Caravan for Disability Freedom and Justice</a> will be onsite.</li> <li>• See demonstrations by the <a href="#">Boston Brakers</a> power wheelchair soccer team who recently won the bronze medal at the United States Power Soccer Association 2024 Conference Cup Series, and <a href="#">The Boston "Whiplash" Volt Hockey</a> team who play a version of 4-on-4 wheelchair street hockey.</li> <li>• Our Shared History, Your Personal Story: Northeastern College students will set up recording booths for participants to share what the independent living movement has meant to them and their hopes for the future.</li> <li>• Adaptive games for children 1 to 10 years old.</li> <li>• Have your photo taken at the red-carpet station!</li> <li>• The event emcee is James "Jimmy" Hill, founder/creator of <a href="#">Java with Jimmy</a> and prominent community advocate, self-made talk show host, and civic leader.</li> <li>• Enjoy refreshments including cake and assorted light fare including New England's <a href="#">The Sausage Guy!</a></li> </ul>									



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rekindle old connections and make new friends! It will be a festive afternoon!</li> </ul> <p>Thanks to generous sponsors, the event is free. We ask that you register in advance to help us with planning. Register with this link <a href="https://tinyurl.com/BCIL50th">https://tinyurl.com/BCIL50th</a></p>
<b>Guide to news items in this week's Dignity Digest</b>	<p><b>Nursing Homes</b>  <a href="#">Healing the wounds of failed management in a Mass. nursing home</a> (MassLive, August 30, 2024)</p> <p><b>Steward Healthcare</b>  <b>Assisted Living</b>  <b>Housing</b>  <b>Covid / Long Covid</b>  <a href="#">COVID cases rise at Illinois Veterans' Home; health officials urge public to revisit latest protocols</a> (WGEM, August 28, 2024)</p> <p><b>Behavioral Health</b>  <b>Disability Topics</b>  <b>Longevity</b>  <a href="#">Trekking 85 Miles With Grandpa, Scuba Diving With Grandma</a> (New York Times (free access), August 19, 2024)</p> <p><b>Health Care</b>  <b>Climate Change</b>  <b>Incarcerated Persons</b>  <b>LGBTQ+</b>  <b>Medicare</b>  <b>Transportation</b>  <b>In Other States</b></p>
<p><b>Accessibility and Voter Rights</b></p> <p><a href="#">Sign Up</a> to receive emails. Stay educated on your rights, and on the Issues, Candidates and Ballot Questions in Massachusetts!</p>	<p><b>Rev Up Massachusetts</b>  <i>REV UP – Register! Educate! Vote! Use your Power!</i>  <a href="https://revupma.org/wp/2024-Disability-Voting-Rights-Week">https://revupma.org/wp/2024-Disability-Voting-Rights-Week</a>  September 9 – 13, 2024  Learn more about the issues, and how you can help advance the disability agenda at our <a href="#">2024 Disability Voting Rights Week post</a>.</p> <p><b>2024 Election Calendar</b>  Visit the <a href="#">Secretary of State's Upcoming Elections page</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September 3 – State Primary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ August 24 – Voter Registration Deadline</li> <li>○ August 26 – Vote by Mail Application Deadline</li> </ul> </li> <li>• November 5 – Election Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ October 19 – First day of in-person early voting for state election</li> <li>○ October 26 – Last day to register to vote for state election</li> <li>○ October 29 5:00 p.m. – Deadline to apply for mail-in ballot for state election</li> <li>○ November 1 – last day of in-person early voting for state election</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Transitions</b>	1.
<b>Webinars and Other Online Sessions</b>	2.
Previously posted webinars and online sessions	Previously posted webinars and online sessions can be viewed at: <a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/webinars-and-online-sessions/">https://dignityalliancema.org/webinars-and-online-sessions/</a>
<b>Nursing Homes</b>	3. MassLive

	<p>August 30, 2024  <a href="#">Healing the wounds of failed management in a Mass. nursing home</a>  By Editorial Board  The people performing an essential service of rehabilitation inside a South Hadley nursing home aren't who you'd expect. They can be trusted.  It's the operator who comes next who's a concern.  Since July, a company tapped by the state has been operating Pioneer Valley Health and Rehabilitation. Along with making sure residents get care, KCP Advisory Group is working to heal financial and other problems that pushed the center into a crisis this summer, putting residents at risk and forcing loyal employees to work without pay, even as their benefits were lost due to the private operator's apparent neglect and mismanagement.  <a href="#">This week</a>, a judge overseeing the receivership of the South Hadley nursing home, plus two others in Amesbury and Whitinsville, heard from a representative of the home's temporary managers, as well as from a lawyer for the facility's owner.  The receiver detailed steps taken to get this place functioning properly. The lawyer for the owner, BluePoint Healthcare, said "things are moving quickly to getting back on track."  What remains uncertain, and likely of concern to residents and their families, is BluPoint's ability to sustain the organizational rehab it didn't want, but is getting anyway.  We reported Thursday that it has cost taxpayers nearly \$2 million to address problems created under BluPoint's watch – including restoring benefits to workers.  We hope new guardrails can protect people who put their faith in the nursing homes overseen by Joseph Cuzzupoli. We say that because money problems seem to be endemic with this business. The South Hadley nursing home owes \$162,000 in property taxes it failed to pay the town in the last two years. And as court filings show, the town isn't the only party looking for Cuzzupoli to make good on debts.  We look forward to an even more muscular rehab that returns the state's investment to taxpayers.</p> <p><b>4. MassLive</b>  August 30, 2024  <a href="#">Tab for state rescue of 3 Mass. nursing homes nears \$2M</a>  August 30, 2024</p>
<b>Steward Healthcare</b>	<b>5.</b>
<b>Assisted Living</b>	<b>6.</b>
<b>Housing</b>	<b>7.</b>
<b>Health Care</b>	<b>8.</b>
<b>Covid / Long Covid</b>	<p><b>9. WGEM</b>  August 28, 2024  <a href="#">COVID cases rise at Illinois Veterans' Home; health officials urge public to revisit latest protocols</a>  By Clare Edlund  COVID-19 Cases Surge Again  Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rising Cases: COVID-19 cases are increasing nationwide, including in the Tri-States.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased Positivity: Roughly one in five tests are now positive.</li> <li>• Dominant Variant: The current dominant variant is still circulating.</li> <li>• Veterans' Homes Affected: COVID-19 cases are on the rise at Illinois Veterans' Homes.</li> <li>• Mild Symptoms: Most cases have mild symptoms.</li> <li>• Precautions: Veterans' Homes are implementing social distancing and mask mandates.</li> <li>• Rapid Recovery: Patients are recovering more quickly compared to previous waves.</li> <li>• Stealthy Nature: Mild symptoms make it harder to detect cases.</li> <li>• New Vaccine: A new COVID-19 vaccine is available for individuals six months and older.</li> <li>• Vulnerable Populations: The elderly, immunocompromised, and those with underlying health conditions are at higher risk.</li> </ul> <p>Overall, the article highlights the resurgence of COVID-19 cases and the importance of staying informed about the latest guidelines and seeking vaccination.</p>
<b>Behavioral Health</b>	<b>10.</b>
<b>Disability Topics</b>	<b>11.</b>
<b>Longevity</b>	<p><b>12. New York Times (free access)</b>  August 19, 2024  <a href="#">Trekking 85 Miles With Grandpa. Scuba Diving With Grandma</a>  By Julie Weed  <i>With older adults staying fit longer, many are joining their grandchildren on travel adventures like wilderness hikes, bike tours and even bungee jumping.</i>  This article is about a new trend of active grandparents going on adventurous trips with their grandchildren.  The article discusses how people are living longer and healthier lives, and that this is leading to a new kind of grandparent-grandchild vacation. These trips are more active and adventurous than traditional vacations, such as cruises or bus tours.  The article also includes tips for grandparents who are considering an adventure vacation with their grandchildren. Some of these tips include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparing for the trip by doing things like walking the trail in advance and packing familiar foods.</li> <li>• Choosing activities that everyone will enjoy.</li> <li>• Having an open mind and being flexible.</li> </ul> <p>The article concludes by saying that not all grandparents are comfortable using technology to book trips, but that some companies are making accommodations for this.</p>
<b>Climate Change</b>	<b>13.</b>
<b>Incarcerated Persons</b>	<b>14.</b>
<b>LGBTQ+</b>	<b>15.</b>
<b>Medicare</b>	<b>16.</b>
<b>Transportation</b>	<b>17.</b>
<b>In Other States</b>	<b>18.</b>
<b>Support Dignity Alliance Massachusetts</b>	Dignity Alliance Massachusetts is a grassroots, volunteer-run 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to transformative change to ensure the dignity of older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers. We are committed to advancing ways of providing long-term services, support,



<p><b><u>Please Donate!</u></b></p>	<p>living options and care that respect individual choice and self-determination. Through education, legislation, regulatory reform, and legal strategies, this mission will become reality throughout the Commonwealth.</p> <p><b>As a fully volunteer operation, our financial needs are modest, but also real. Your donation helps to produce and distribute <i>The Dignity Digest</i> weekly free of charge to almost 1,000 recipients and maintain our website, <a href="http://www.DignityAllianceMA.org">www.DignityAllianceMA.org</a>, which has thousands of visits each month.</b></p> <p><b>Consider a donation in memory or honor of someone. Names of those recognized will be included in <i>The Dignity Digest</i> and posted on the website.</b></p> <p><a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/donate/">https://dignityalliancema.org/donate/</a></p> <p>Thank you for your consideration!</p>	
<p><b>Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Legislative Endorsements</b></p>	<p>Information about the legislative bills which have been endorsed by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, including the text of the bills, can be viewed at: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/DignityLegislativeEndorsements">https://tinyurl.com/DignityLegislativeEndorsements</a>  Questions or comments can be directed to Legislative Work Group Chair Richard (Dick) Moore at <a href="mailto:rmoores8473@charter.net">rmoores8473@charter.net</a>.</p>	
<p><b>Websites</b></p>		
<p><b>Blogs</b></p>		
<p><b>Podcasts</b></p>	<p><b><u><a href="#">Consumer Voice Podcast Library</a></u></b>  The Consumer Voice maintains an extensive library of podcasts covering an array of long-term care topics.</p>	
<p>Previously recommended websites</p>	<p>The comprehensive list of recommended websites has migrated to the Dignity Alliance MA website: <a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/resources/">https://dignityalliancema.org/resources/</a>. Only new recommendations will be listed in <i>The Dignity Digest</i>.</p>	
<p>Previously posted funding opportunities</p>	<p>For open funding opportunities previously posted in <i>The Tuesday Digest</i> please see <a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/funding-opportunities/">https://dignityalliancema.org/funding-opportunities/</a>.</p>	
<p>Websites of Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Members</p>	<p>See: <a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/about/organizations/">https://dignityalliancema.org/about/organizations/</a></p>	
<p>Contact information for reporting complaints and concerns</p>	<p><b>Nursing home</b></p>	<p><u><a href="#">Department of Public Health</a></u>  1. Print and complete the <u><a href="#">Consumer/Resident/Patient Complaint Form</a></u>  2. Fax completed form to (617) 753-8165  Or  Mail to 67 Forest Street, Marlborough, MA 01752  <u><a href="#">Ombudsman Program</a></u></p>
<p>Money Follows the Person</p>	<p><b>MassHealth</b>  <u><a href="#">Money Follows the Person</a></u>  The Money Follows the Person (MFP) Demonstration helps older adults and people with disabilities move from nursing facilities, chronic disease or rehabilitation hospitals, or other qualified facilities back to the community.  Statistics as of August 9, 2024:</p>	

	<p>645 people enrolled, most in nursing facilities  137 people transitioned out of nursing facilities  38 people approved for AHVP ( <a href="#">Alternative Housing Voucher Program</a>)  nursing home vouchers, 14 currently in use  <a href="#">Open PDF file, 1.34 MB, MFP Demonstration Brochure</a>  <a href="#">MFP Demonstration Brochure - Accessible Version</a>  <a href="#">MFP Demonstration Fact Sheet</a>  <a href="#">MFP Demonstration Fact Sheet - Accessible Version</a></p>
Nursing Home Closures (pending)	<p><a href="#">Massachusetts Department of Public Health</a>  <i>Marion Manor, South Boston</i>  Closure date: September 11, 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Notice of Intent to Close (PDF)</a>   <a href="#">(DOCX)</a></li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Massachusetts Nursing Home Survey Performance Tool</a> and the <a href="#">CMS Nursing Home Compare website</a>.</p>
Nursing Home Closures	<p><a href="#">Massachusetts Department of Public Health</a>  <i>Bridgewater Nursing &amp; Rehab, Bridgewater</i>  Closure date: May 24, 2024  <i>Savoy Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, New Bedford</i>  Closure date: April 3, 2024  <i>New England Sinai Hospital Transitional Care Unit</i>  Closure date: April 2, 2024  <i>South Dennis Health Care, Dennis</i>  Closure date: January 30, 2024  <i>Arnold House Nursing Home, Stoneham</i>  Closure date: September 22, 2023  <i>Willimansett East, Chicopee</i>  Closure date: June 6, 2023  <i>Willimansett West, Chicopee</i>  Closure date: June 6, 2023  Chapin Center Springfield  Closure date: June 6, 2023  Governors Center, Westfield  Closure date: June 6, 2023  <i>Stonehedge Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center, West Roxbury</i>  Closure date: February 10, 2022  <i>Heathwood Healthcare, Newton</i>  Closure date: January 5, 2022  <i>Mt. Ida Rest Home, Newton</i>  Closure date: December 31, 2021  <i>Wingate at Chestnut Hill, Newton, MA</i>  Closure date: October 1, 2021  <i>Halcyon House, Methuen</i>  Closure date: July 16, 2021  <i>Agawam HealthCare, Agawam</i>  Closure date: July 27, 2021  <i>Wareham HealthCare, Wareham</i>  Closure date: July 28, 2021  <i>Town &amp; Country Health Care Center, Lowell</i>  Closure date: July 31, 2021</p>

Nursing homes with admission freezes	<p><b>Massachusetts Department of Public Health</b>  <i>Temporary admissions freeze</i>  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><b>Massachusetts Department of Public Health</b>  <b><i>Determination of Need Projects: Long Term Care</i></b>  <b>2023</b>  <a href="#"><u>Navigator Homes of Martha's Vineyard, Inc. – Long Term Care Substantial Capital Expenditure</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>Royal Wayland Nursing Home, LLC – Conservation Long Term Care Project</u></a>  <b>2022</b>  <a href="#"><u>Ascentria Care Alliance – Laurel Ridge</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>Ascentria Care Alliance – Lutheran Housing</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>Ascentria Care Alliance – Quaboag</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>Berkshire Healthcare Systems, Inc. – Windsor Long Term Care Conservation</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>Fairlawn Rehabilitation Hospital-Hospital/Clinic Substantial Capital Expenditure</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>Long Term Centers of Lexington – Pine Knoll – Long Term Care Conservation</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>Long Term Centers of Wrentham – Serenity Hill – Long Term Care Conservation</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>Next Step Healthcare LLC-Conservation Long Term Care Project</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>Royal Falmouth – Conservation Long Term Care</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>Royal Norwell – Long Term Care Conservation</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>Wellman Healthcare Group, Inc</u></a>  <b>2020</b>  <a href="#"><u>Advocate Healthcare, LLC Amendment</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>Campion Health &amp; Wellness, Inc. – LTC - Substantial Change in Service</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>Heywood Healthcare, Inc. – Hospital/Clinic Substantial Capital Expenditure</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>Notre Dame Health Care Center, Inc. – LTC Conservation</u></a>  <b>2020</b>  <a href="#"><u>Advocate Healthcare of East Boston, LLC.</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>Belmont Manor Nursing Home, Inc.</u></a></p>
List of Special Focus Facilities	<p><b>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services</b>  <i>List of Special Focus Facilities and Candidates</i>  <a href="https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram"><u>https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram</u></a>  <b>Updated April 24, 2024</b>  CMS has published a new list of <u>Special Focus Facilities</u> (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.</p>

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 )**

**Newly added to the listing**

- Somerset Ridge Center, Somerset  
<https://somersestridgerehab.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>

**Massachusetts facilities which have graduated from the program**

- 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>

**Massachusetts facilities that are candidates for listing (months on list)**

- AdviniaCare Newburyport (3)  
<https://www.adviniacare.com/adviniacare-country-center/>  
Nursing home inspect information:  
<https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225332>
- Charwell House Health and Rehabilitation, Norwood (27)  
<https://tinyurl.com/Charwell>

	<p>Nursing home inspect information:  <a href="https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225208">https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225208</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fall River Healthcare (9)  <a href="https://www.nextstephc.com/fallriver">https://www.nextstephc.com/fallriver</a></li> </ul> <p>Nursing home inspect information:  <a href="https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225723/">https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225723/</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glen Ridge Nursing Care Center, Medford (13)  <a href="https://www.geneshcc.com/glenridge">https://www.geneshcc.com/glenridge</a></li> </ul> <p>Nursing home inspect information:  <a href="https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225523">https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225523</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mill Town Health and Rehabilitation, Amesbury (26)  No website</li> </ul> <p>Nursing home inspect information:  <a href="https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225318">https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225318</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parkway Health and Rehabilitation Center, West Roxbury (7)  <a href="https://www.bearmountainhc.com/locations/parkway-health-rehabilitation-center/">https://www.bearmountainhc.com/locations/parkway-health-rehabilitation-center/</a></li> </ul> <p>Nursing home inspect information:  <a href="https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225497">https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225497</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pioneer Valley Health &amp; Rehabilitation Center, South Hadley (24)  <a href="https://pioneervalleyhealth.com/">https://pioneervalleyhealth.com/</a></li> </ul> <p>Nursing home inspect information:  <a href="https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225757">https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225757</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plymouth Harborside Healthcare (4)  <a href="https://www.nextstephc.com/plymouth">https://www.nextstephc.com/plymouth</a></li> </ul> <p>Nursing home inspect information:  <a href="https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225284/">https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225284/</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plymouth Rehabilitation and Health Care Center (22)  <a href="https://plymouthrehab.com/">https://plymouthrehab.com/</a></li> </ul> <p>Nursing home inspect information:  <a href="https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225207">https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225207</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Royal Norwell Nursing &amp; Rehabilitation Center (4)  <a href="https://norwell.royalhealthgroup.com/">https://norwell.royalhealthgroup.com/</a></li> </ul> <p>Nursing home inspect information:  <a href="https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225482/">https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225482/</a></p> <p><b>Massachusetts Facilities that have graduated from the program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marlborough Hills Rehabilitation &amp; Health Care Center, Marlborough  <a href="https://marlboroughhillsrehab.com/">https://marlboroughhillsrehab.com/</a></li> </ul> <p>Nursing home inspect information:  <a href="https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225063/">https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225063/</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxford Rehabilitation &amp; Health Care Center, Haverhill  <a href="https://theoxfordrehabhealth.com/">https://theoxfordrehabhealth.com/</a></li> </ul> <p>Nursing home inspect information:  <a href="https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225218/">https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225218/</a></p> <p><b>No longer operating</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Dennis Healthcare, South Dennis  <a href="https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram">https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram</a></li> </ul>
<p><i>Nursing Home Inspect</i></p>	<p><b>ProPublica</b>  <b>Nursing Home Inspect</b>  <b>Data updated April 24, 2024</b>  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</p>

	<p>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:  <a href="https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/state/MA">https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/state/MA</a>  <b>Deficiencies By Severity in Massachusetts</b>  <a href="#">(What do the severity ratings mean?)</a></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Deficiency Tag</th> <th># Deficiencies</th> <th># Facilities</th> <th>MA facilities cited</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>284</td> <td>198</td> <td><a href="#">Tag B</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>C</td> <td>108</td> <td>85</td> <td><a href="#">Tag C</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>D</td> <td>7,496</td> <td>1,469</td> <td><a href="#">Tag D</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>1,965</td> <td>788</td> <td><a href="#">Tag E</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>F</td> <td>656</td> <td>317</td> <td><a href="#">Tag F</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>G</td> <td>568</td> <td>384</td> <td><a href="#">Tag G</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>H</td> <td>44</td> <td>33</td> <td><a href="#">Tag H</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>I</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td><a href="#">Tag I</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>J</td> <td>57</td> <td>27</td> <td><a href="#">Tag J</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>K</td> <td>8</td> <td>5</td> <td><a href="#">Tag K</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>L</td> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> <td><a href="#">Tag L</a></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Updated April 24, 2024</b></p>	Deficiency Tag	# Deficiencies	# Facilities	MA facilities cited	B	284	198	<a href="#">Tag B</a>	C	108	85	<a href="#">Tag C</a>	D	7,496	1,469	<a href="#">Tag D</a>	E	1,965	788	<a href="#">Tag E</a>	F	656	317	<a href="#">Tag F</a>	G	568	384	<a href="#">Tag G</a>	H	44	33	<a href="#">Tag H</a>	I	3	2	<a href="#">Tag I</a>	J	57	27	<a href="#">Tag J</a>	K	8	5	<a href="#">Tag K</a>	L	5	2	<a href="#">Tag L</a>
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Nursing Home Compare	<p><b>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)</b>  <i>Nursing Home Compare Website</i>          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.</p> <p>This information will be posted for each facility and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Staff turnover:</b> 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.</li> <li>• <b>Weekend staff:</b> The level of weekend staffing for nurses and registered nurses at a nursing home over a three-month period.</li> </ul> <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><a href="https://tinyurl.com/NursingHomeCompareWebsite">https://tinyurl.com/NursingHomeCompareWebsite</a></p>																																																
Data on Ownership of Nursing Homes	<p><b>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services</b>  <i>Data on Ownership of Nursing Homes</i>          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 <a href="https://data.cms.gov">data.cms.gov</a> and updated monthly.</p>																																																



DignityMA Call Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The MA Senate released a report in response to COVID-19. <b>Download the <a href="#">DignityMA Response to Reimagining the Future of MA</a>.</b></li> <li><b>Advocate</b> for state bills that advance the Dignity Alliance Massachusetts' Mission and Goals – <b><a href="#">State Legislative Endorsements</a></b>.</li> <li><b>Support</b> relevant bills in Washington – <b><a href="#">Federal Legislative Endorsements</a></b>.</li> <li><b>Join</b> our <b><a href="#">Work Groups</a></b>.</li> <li><b>Learn</b> to use and leverage social media at our workshops: <b><a href="#">Engaging Everyone: Creating Accessible, Powerful Social Media Content</a></b></li> </ul>																																														
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<b>Participation opportunities with Dignity Alliance Massachusetts</b>  Most workgroups meet bi-weekly via Zoom.  Interest Groups meet periodically (monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly).  Please contact group lead for more information.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Workgroup</th> <th>Workgroup lead</th> <th>Email</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>General Membership</td> <td>Bill Henning Paul Lanzikos</td> <td><a href="mailto:bhenning@bostoncil.org">bhenning@bostoncil.org</a> <a href="mailto:paul.lanzikos@gmail.com">paul.lanzikos@gmail.com</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assisted Living</td> <td>John Ford</td> <td><a href="mailto:jford@njc-ma.org">jford@njc-ma.org</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Behavioral Health</td> <td>Frank Baskin</td> <td><a href="mailto:baskinfrank19@gmail.com">baskinfrank19@gmail.com</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Communications</td> <td>Lachlan Forrow</td> <td><a href="mailto:lforrow@bidmc.harvard.edu">lforrow@bidmc.harvard.edu</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Facilities (Nursing homes and rest homes)</td> <td>Jim Lomastro Arlene Germain</td> <td><a href="mailto:jimlomastro@comcast.net">jimlomastro@comcast.net</a> <a href="mailto:agermain@manhr.org">agermain@manhr.org</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Home and Community Based Services</td> <td>Meg Coffin</td> <td><a href="mailto:mcoffin@centerlw.org">mcoffin@centerlw.org</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Legislative</td> <td>Richard Moore</td> <td><a href="mailto:rmoore8743@charter.net">rmoore8743@charter.net</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Legal Issues</td> <td>Jeni Kaplan</td> <td><a href="mailto:jkaplan@cpr-ma.org">jkaplan@cpr-ma.org</a></td> </tr> <tr> <th>Interest Group</th> <th>Group lead</th> <th>Email</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Housing</td> <td>Bill Henning</td> <td><a href="mailto:bhenning@bostoncil.org">bhenning@bostoncil.org</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Veteran Services</td> <td>James Lomastro</td> <td><a href="mailto:jimlomastro@comcast.net">jimlomastro@comcast.net</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transportation</td> <td>Frank Baskin Chris Hoeh</td> <td><a href="mailto:baskinfrank19@gmail.com">baskinfrank19@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:cdhoeh@gmail.com">cdhoeh@gmail.com</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Covid / Long Covid</td> <td>James Lomastro</td> <td><a href="mailto:jimlomastro@comcast.net">jimlomastro@comcast.net</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Incarcerated Persons</td> <td>TBD</td> <td><a href="mailto:info@DignityAllianceMA.org">info@DignityAllianceMA.org</a></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Workgroup	Workgroup lead	Email	General Membership	Bill Henning Paul Lanzikos	<a href="mailto:bhenning@bostoncil.org">bhenning@bostoncil.org</a> <a href="mailto:paul.lanzikos@gmail.com">paul.lanzikos@gmail.com</a>	Assisted Living	John Ford	<a href="mailto:jford@njc-ma.org">jford@njc-ma.org</a>	Behavioral Health	Frank Baskin	<a href="mailto:baskinfrank19@gmail.com">baskinfrank19@gmail.com</a>	Communications	Lachlan Forrow	<a href="mailto:lforrow@bidmc.harvard.edu">lforrow@bidmc.harvard.edu</a>	Facilities (Nursing homes and rest homes)	Jim Lomastro Arlene Germain	<a href="mailto:jimlomastro@comcast.net">jimlomastro@comcast.net</a> <a href="mailto:agermain@manhr.org">agermain@manhr.org</a>	Home and Community Based Services	Meg Coffin	<a href="mailto:mcoffin@centerlw.org">mcoffin@centerlw.org</a>	Legislative	Richard Moore	<a href="mailto:rmoore8743@charter.net">rmoore8743@charter.net</a>	Legal Issues	Jeni Kaplan	<a href="mailto:jkaplan@cpr-ma.org">jkaplan@cpr-ma.org</a>	Interest Group	Group lead	Email	Housing	Bill Henning	<a href="mailto:bhenning@bostoncil.org">bhenning@bostoncil.org</a>	Veteran Services	James Lomastro	<a href="mailto:jimlomastro@comcast.net">jimlomastro@comcast.net</a>	Transportation	Frank Baskin Chris Hoeh	<a href="mailto:baskinfrank19@gmail.com">baskinfrank19@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:cdhoeh@gmail.com">cdhoeh@gmail.com</a>	Covid / Long Covid	James Lomastro	<a href="mailto:jimlomastro@comcast.net">jimlomastro@comcast.net</a>	Incarcerated Persons	TBD	<a href="mailto:info@DignityAllianceMA.org">info@DignityAllianceMA.org</a>	
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Transportation	Frank Baskin Chris Hoeh	<a href="mailto:baskinfrank19@gmail.com">baskinfrank19@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:cdhoeh@gmail.com">cdhoeh@gmail.com</a>																																													
Covid / Long Covid	James Lomastro	<a href="mailto:jimlomastro@comcast.net">jimlomastro@comcast.net</a>																																													
Incarcerated Persons	TBD	<a href="mailto:info@DignityAllianceMA.org">info@DignityAllianceMA.org</a>																																													
<b>The Dignity Digest</b>	For a free weekly subscription to <i>The Dignity Digest</i> : <a href="https://dignityalliancema.org/contact/sign-up-for-emails/">https://dignityalliancema.org/contact/sign-up-for-emails/</a> Editor: Paul Lanzikos Primary contributor: Sandy Novack MailChimp Specialist: Sue Rorke																																														
Note of thanks	Thanks to the contributors to this issue of <i>The Dignity Digest</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dick Moore</li> </ul> Special thanks to the MetroWest Center for Independent Living for assistance with the website and MailChimp versions of <i>The Dignity Digest</i> . <i>If you have submissions for inclusion in <a href="#">The Dignity Digest</a> or have questions or comments, please submit them to <a href="mailto:Digest@DignityAllianceMA.org">Digest@DignityAllianceMA.org</a>.</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.*

*Previous issues of The Tuesday Digest and The Dignity Digest are available at:*

*<https://dignityalliancema.org/dignity-digest/>*

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