



The Dignity Dozen -Legislative Candidate’s Response

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 [The Dignity Dozen](#), twelve questions regarding key issues and proposals. **The text for the Dignity Dozen questions is located at [Questions](#).**

Candidate’s name	Damian Anketell
Office sought	Second Essex Senatorial District
Campaign email	info@voteDamian.com
Campaign website	www.voteDamian.com
1. Experience with long-term services	<p>I have indeed had personal experience with home-based care as my mother has reached an age where she needs additional support. She currently receives home living aids, which helps her maintain a level of independence and remain in her own home—a priority for many aging adults. My own background also includes supervising residential care facilities under the Department of Developmental Services, where I managed day-to-day operations. This experience has given me a deep understanding of the complexities involved in providing quality, personalized care and the importance of maintaining dignity and respect for all individuals receiving support.</p> <p>In my view, our state must prioritize home and community-based services, such as personal care assistance, to help our aging population and those with disabilities live with dignity and independence. I believe enhancing these services is crucial for ensuring that Massachusetts residents have access to compassionate, effective care tailored to their needs</p>
2. Personal needs allowance	Yes, up to \$160
3. “Small house” development	Yes
4. Long-term care reform	Yes
5. Home care support	Yes

[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.

6. Transparent ownership	Yes
7. Pandemic funds audit	Yes
8. Nursing home resident rights	Yes
9. Anti-bullying	Yes
10. Anti-psychotic medications	Yes
11. Minimum staffing	Yes
12. Enhanced surveying	Yes
Other comments	<p>I appreciate the opportunity to elaborate on this point. As someone with experience in the day-to-day management of care facilities, I've observed that lack of training is a major factor leading to negative outcomes for both elderly and disabled individuals. While I generally support increased accountability and transparency, questions 4 and 8 highlight how regulations can sometimes overlook the practical realities on the ground. Staff shortages, turnover, and high-stress situations—such as emergency evacuations—require staff to be well-trained, adaptable, and able to respond with agility. However, many state training requirements often don't go far enough to prepare employees for the realities they'll face, which is why I found it necessary to exceed state-mandated training standards. This extra training made a significant difference in providing quality care and minimizing the risk of negative incidents. Therefore, any new regulations or oversight measures should include provisions for comprehensive training that goes beyond the basics, covering both routine care and emergency situations. In my view, prioritizing consistent, high-quality training for staff can address many of the issues that stricter regulations aim to mitigate while also supporting a safer and more supportive environment for residents. In addition, I'd be interested to know how Dignity Alliance Massachusetts views the role of training and what initiatives are being considered to improve staff preparedness and retention. This would provide further insights on how we can collaboratively work toward improving care standards without placing undue burdens on facilities or creating unintended consequences.</p>

DignityMA does not endorse candidates. These responses are provided for public information only.

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Questions / comments: Dick Moore at rmoore8743@charter.net or Paul Lanzikos at paul.lanzikos@gmail.com.

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