



Legislative Endorsements as of April 17, 2025

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Bill Numbers and Text Summary	Endorsements
<p><u>S.1938</u> / <u>H.3159</u> Senate Sponsor: <u>Joanne M. Comerford</u> House Sponsors: <u>Michael P. Kushmerek</u> , <u>David M. Rogers</u> S1938/H3159 An Act Supporting Family Caregivers filed by AARP</p> <p>The Act will provide family caregivers with a variety of supports including an income tax credit to cover expenses incurred by a taxpayer for the care and support of a qualifying family member; respite care vouchers; unemployment insurance eligibility; addresses workplace discrimination; and establishes a permanent commission to focus on family caregiving needs.</p>	<p>Endorsed by 24 DignityMA participants, including:</p> <p>Jennifer Boles, Danvers Boston Center for Independent Living, Boston Center for Living & Working, Worcester COP Amputee Association, Inc- COPAA, Wenham Disability Law Center, Boston John J. Ford, JD, Quincy Nancy Gardner, East Bridgewater Wynn Gerhard, Esq., Plymouth Margaret Morganroth Gullette, PhD, Newton Jerry Halberstadt, Stop Bullying Coalition, Peabody Steven Higgins, Independence Associates, Inc., East Bridgewater Paul J. Lanzikos, Beverly Richard Levasseur, Tewksbury LifePath, Greenfield, Franklin County and North Quabbin James A. Lomastro, PhD, Conway Mass Aging Access, Malden Basil Maurice, Springfield Former Senate President Pro Tem Richard T. Moore, Uxbridge Sandy Novack, LICSW, MBA Lisa Orgettas, Disability Resource Center, Salem Stavros Center for Independent Living, Amherst Dorothy Weitzman, MA, MSW, Newton Brianna Zimmerman, South Hadley</p>
<p><u>S.707</u> / <u>H.1247</u> – Senate Sponsor: <u>John J. Cronin</u></p>	<p>Endorsed by 24 DignityMA participants, including:</p> <p>Jennifer Boles, Danvers Boston Center for Independent Living, Boston</p>

<p>House Sponsors: Kate Lipper-Garabedian , Thomas M. Stanley</p> <p>S707/H1247 An Act relative to preventing fraud and establishing regulations on certain currencies – AARP</p> <p>The Act would strengthen consumer protections in Massachusetts, already some of the strongest consumer protection laws in the country. The legislation would prevent Massachusetts residents from losing their savings to criminals through crypto currency kiosk and ATMs. These measures include licensing cryptocurrency ATM operators, imposing daily transaction limits to mitigate risks, posting visible fraud warning notices with steps to take if fraudulent activity is suspected, creating a special commission to study blockchain technology for better regulation and benefits, and ensuring residents have access to educational materials to manage their finances and safeguard their financial well-being.</p>	<p>Center for Living & Working, Worcester COP Amputee Association, Inc- COPAA, Wenham Disability Law Center, Boston John J. Ford, JD, Quincy Nancy Gardner, East Bridgewater Wynn Gerhard, Esq., Plymouth Margaret Morganroth Gullette, PhD, Newton Jerry Halberstadt, Stop Bullying Coalition, Peabody Steven Higgins, Independence Associates, Inc., East Bridgewater Paul J. Lanzikos, Beverly Richard Levasseur, Tewksbury LifePath, Greenfield, Franklin County and North Quabbin James A. Lomastro, PhD, Conway Mass Aging Access, Malden Basil Maurice, Springfield Former Senate President Pro Tem Richard T. Moore, Uxbridge Sandy Novack, LICSW, MBA Lisa Orgettas, Disability Resource Center, Salem Stavros Center for Independent Living, Amherst Dorothy Weitzman, MA, MSW, Newton Brianna Zimmerman, South Hadley</p>
<p>S.2419 / H.3804</p> <p>Senate Sponsor: Mark, Paul W.</p> <p>House Sponsor: Vitolo, Tommy</p> <p>S2419/H3804 – An Act to Improve Pedestrian Safety – AARP</p> <p>To improve safety, this legislation would require municipalities to assess their city or town for areas where vulnerable pedestrians who need more time to cross the street are most likely to be. After that assessment, local governments would be required to account for people needing more time to cross the street safely and adjust their crossing signals accordingly.</p>	<p>Endorsed by 25 DignityMA participants, including:</p> <p>Jennifer Boles, Danvers Boston Center for Independent Living, Boston Center for Living & Working, Worcester COP Amputee Association, Inc- COPAA, Wenham Disability Law Center, Boston John J. Ford, JD, Quincy Nancy Gardner, East Bridgewater Wynn Gerhard, Esq., Plymouth Margaret Morganroth Gullette, PhD, Newton Jerry Halberstadt, Stop Bullying Coalition, Peabody Steven Higgins, Independence Associates, Inc., East Bridgewater Paul J. Lanzikos, Beverly Richard Levasseur, Tewksbury LifePath, Greenfield, Franklin County and North Quabbin James A. Lomastro, PhD, Conway Mass Aging Access, Malden Basil Maurice, Springfield Former Senate President Pro Tem Richard T. Moore, Uxbridge Sandy Novack, LICSW, MBA Lisa Orgettas, Disability Resource Center, Salem Stavros Center for Independent Living, Amherst Dorothy Weitzman, MA, MSW, Newton Brianna Zimmerman, South Hadley</p>

<p><u>S.474 / H.791</u> Senate Sponsor: <u>Patricia D. Jehlen</u> House Sponsor: <u>Thomas M. Stanley</u> S474/H791 -An Act relative to assisted living and the frail elder waiver.</p> <p>This bill directs the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services to pursue federal approval for new Medicaid options that would allow eligible older adults to choose assisted living residences instead of nursing homes. Specifically, the bill requires the state to submit applications for state plan amendments or waivers within 90 days of the act's effective date to establish an assisted living service for Medicaid-qualifying individuals at risk of nursing home placement. The proposed service must have a daily rate that does not exceed 80% of equivalent institutional care costs and must use payment methodologies to ensure equal economic access. Within 120 days, the office must report to legislative committees on the status of these applications, exploring three potential approaches: amending the existing frail elder waiver, creating a new home and community-based services waiver, or enabling assisted living through managed care "in lieu of services" options, drawing inspiration from Medicaid programs in the District of Columbia, Ohio, and California. Additionally, within 180 days, the Executive Office of Aging and Independence must report on current barriers preventing MassHealth members from accessing assisted living residences, with particular attention to residents in qualified census tracts or difficult development areas.</p>	<p>Endorsed by 26 DignityMA participants, including:</p> <p>Jennifer Boles, Danvers Boston Center for Independent Living, Boston Charlie Carr, Methuen Center for Living & Working, Worcester COP Amputee Association, Inc- COPAA, Wenham Disability Law Center, Boston John J. Ford, JD, Quincy Nancy Gardner, East Bridgewater Wynn Gerhard, Esq., Plymouth Margaret Morganroth Gullette, PhD, Newton Jerry Halberstadt, Stop Bullying Coalition, Peabody Steven Higgins, Independence Associates, Inc., East Bridgewater Paul J. Lanzikos, Beverly Richard Levasseur, Tewksbury LifePath, Greenfield, Franklin County and North Quabbin James A. Lomastro, PhD, Conway Mass Aging Access, Malden Basil Maurice, Springfield Former Senate President Pro Tem Richard T. Moore, Uxbridge Sandy Novack, LICSW, MBA Lisa Orgettas, Disability Resource Center, Salem Stavros Center for Independent Living, Amherst Dorothy Weitzman, MA, MSW, Newton Brianna Zimmerman, South Hadley</p>
<p><u>S.470 / H.789</u> Senate Sponsor: <u>Patricia D. Jehlen</u> House Sponsor: <u>Thomas M. Stanley</u> S470/H.789 An Act to improve home care</p> <p>The bills establish licensing and standards for home care agencies, oversight, and accountability of owners, operators and staff. Needs to be amended in lines 113, 233, 248 to replace "elder affairs," with "aging and independence. The proposed reform are essential to</p>	<p>Endorsed by 26 DignityMA participants, including:</p> <p>Jennifer Boles, Danvers Boston Center for Independent Living, Boston Charlie Carr, Methuen Center for Living & Working, Worcester COP Amputee Association, Inc- COPAA, Wenham Disability Law Center, Boston John J. Ford, JD, Quincy Nancy Gardner, East Bridgewater Wynn Gerhard, Esq., Plymouth</p>

<p>protect consumers and caregivers in home care and to provide accountability, transparency and appropriate oversight. Dignity Alliance also takes this opportunity to suggest that both the current and proposed state budget substantially underfund the home care account, and we have communicated this to both the Administration and the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.</p>	<p>Margaret Morganroth Gullette, PhD, Newton Jerry Halberstadt, Stop Bullying Coalition, Peabody Steven Higgins, Independence Associates, Inc., East Bridgewater Paul J. Lanzikos, Beverly Richard Levasseur, Tewksbury LifePath, Greenfield, Franklin County and North Quabbin James A. Lomastro, PhD, Conway Mass Aging Access, Malden Basil Maurice, Springfield Former Senate President Pro Tem Richard T. Moore, Uxbridge Sandy Novack, LICSW, MBA Lisa Orgettas, Disability Resource Center, Salem Stavros Center for Independent Living, Amherst Dorothy Weitzman, MA, MSW, Newton Brianna Zimmerman, South Hadley</p>
<p>S.473 / H.778 Senate Sponsor: Patricia D. Jehlen House Sponsors: Kate Lipper-Garabedian , Thomas M. Stanley S473/H778 An Act relative to the commission on LGBTQ aging The bills create a permanent commission on older gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning adults and their caregivers. Needs to be amended in lines 6 and 8 to replace “elder affairs” with “aging and independence.” This bill is important in view of the potential for discrimination against older adults who, because of their treatment when younger, often do not have the support network that exist, despite some external threats, even today. With regard to this legislation, it should be noted that, according an article by Kay Lazar in the Boston Globe (3/23/2025) the state is not tracking compliance with Mass. General Laws c.111 § 72GG, Prohibiting discrimination against residents on the basis of gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, intersex status, or HIV status; long-term care facilities; notice; care for transgender residents; LGBTQI inclusion in programming; rules and regulations; training, Perhaps this bill should be amended requiring DPH to report annually on compliance.</p>	<p>Endorsed by 25 DignityMA participants, including: Jennifer Boles, Danvers Boston Center for Independent Living, Boston Charlie Carr, Methuen Center for Living & Working, Worcester COP Amputee Association, Inc- COPAA, Wenham Disability Law Center, Boston John J. Ford, JD, Quincy Nancy Gardner, East Bridgewater Wynn Gerhard, Esq., Plymouth Margaret Morganroth Gullette, PhD, Newton Jerry Halberstadt, Stop Bullying Coalition, Peabody Steven Higgins, Independence Associates, Inc., East Bridgewater Paul J. Lanzikos, Beverly LifePath, Greenfield, Franklin County and North Quabbin James A. Lomastro, PhD, Conway Mass Aging Access, Malden Basil Maurice, Springfield Former Senate President Pro Tem Richard T. Moore, Uxbridge Sandy Novack, LICSW, MBA Lisa Orgettas, Disability Resource Center, Salem Stavros Center for Independent Living, Amherst Dorothy Weitzman, MA, MSW, Newton Brianna Zimmerman, South Hadley</p>
<p>S.471/ H.777 Senate Sponsor: Patricia D. Jehlen</p>	<p>Endorsed by 25 DignityMA participants, including: Jennifer Boles, Danvers Boston Center for Independent Living, Boston</p>

<p>House Sponsors: Kate Lipper-Garabedian , Thomas M. Stanley</p> <p>S471/H777 An Act supporting seniors' financial stability</p> <p>The bills require the State Treasurer to establish a program for financial education for older adults and periodically update. Needs to be amended in line 5 to replace “elder affairs’ with “aging and independence. Older adults are frequent targets of scammers and many do not have the life experience important to manage personal finances as they age.</p>	<p>Center for Living & Working, Worcester COP Amputee Association, Inc- COPAA, Wenham Disability Law Center, Boston John J. Ford, JD, Quincy Nancy Gardner, East Bridgewater Wynn Gerhard, Esq., Plymouth Margaret Morganroth Gullette, PhD, Newton Jerry Halberstadt, Stop Bullying Coalition, Peabody Steven Higgins, Independence Associates, Inc., East Bridgewater Paul J. Lanzikos, Beverly Richard Levasseur, Tewksbury LifePath, Greenfield, Franklin County and North Quabbin James A. Lomastro, PhD, Conway Mass Aging Access, Malden Basil Maurice, Springfield Former Senate President Pro Tem Richard T. Moore, Uxbridge Sandy Novack, LICSW, MBA Lisa Orgettas, Disability Resource Center, Salem Stavros Center for Independent Living, Amherst Dorothy Weitzman, MA, MSW, Newton Brianna Zimmerman, South Hadley</p>
<p>S.467 / H.765</p> <p>Senate Sponsor: Barry R. Finegold</p> <p>House Sponsors: Kate Donaghue , Christine P. Barber</p> <p>S467/H765 An Act relative to councils on aging</p> <p>The bills update terms and clarifies that the director hires needed staff, council is advisory. The terms recommended in the proposed bills more accurately describe the role of councils on aging today.</p>	<p>Endorsed by 25 DignityMA participants, including:</p> <p>Jennifer Boles, Danvers Boston Center for Independent Living, Boston Center for Living & Working, Worcester COP Amputee Association, Inc- COPAA, Wenham Disability Law Center, Boston John J. Ford, JD, Quincy Nancy Gardner, East Bridgewater Wynn Gerhard, Esq., Plymouth Margaret Morganroth Gullette, PhD, Newton Jerry Halberstadt, Stop Bullying Coalition, Peabody Steven Higgins, Independence Associates, Inc., East Bridgewater Paul J. Lanzikos, Beverly Richard Levasseur, Tewksbury LifePath, Greenfield, Franklin County and North Quabbin James A. Lomastro, PhD, Conway Mass Aging Access, Malden Basil Maurice, Springfield Former Senate President Pro Tem Richard T. Moore, Uxbridge Sandy Novack, LICSW, MBA Lisa Orgettas, Disability Resource Center, Salem Stavros Center for Independent Living, Amherst Dorothy Weitzman, MA, MSW, Newton Brianna Zimmerman, South Hadley</p>

<p><u>S.484</u> Senate Sponsor: <u>Mark C. Montigny</u> S484 An Act relative to reserving beds in nursing home during certain leaves of absence</p> <p>The bill makes permanent the right of residents to take leaves of absence from a nursing home for health and personal reasons. Currently, the Legislature needs to include the leave of absence in the annual budget. This bill will bring the executive branch into harmony with the legislature demonstrating that both support this important right for older adults in nursing homes so that the leave will be factored into budget development from the outset of the process.</p>	<p>Endorsed by 25 DignityMA participants, including:</p> <p>Jennifer Boles, Danvers Boston Center for Independent Living, Boston Center for Living & Working, Worcester COP Amputee Association, Inc- COPAA, Wenham Disability Law Center, Boston John J. Ford, JD, Quincy Nancy Gardner, East Bridgewater Wynn Gerhard, Esq., Plymouth Margaret Morganroth Gullette, PhD, Newton Jerry Halberstadt, Stop Bullying Coalition, Peabody Steven Higgins, Independence Associates, Inc., East Bridgewater Paul J. Lanzikos, Beverly Richard Levasseur, Tewksbury LifePath, Greenfield, Franklin County and North Quabbin James A. Lomastro, PhD, Conway Mass Aging Access, Malden Basil Maurice, Springfield Former Senate President Pro Tem Richard T. Moore, Uxbridge Sandy Novack, LICSW, MBA Lisa Orgettas, Disability Resource Center, Salem Stavros Center for Independent Living, Amherst Dorothy Weitzman, MA, MSW, Newton Brianna Zimmerman, South Hadley</p>
<p><u>S.903 / H.1412</u> Senate Sponsor: <u>Pavel M. Payano</u> House Sponsor: <u>Thomas M. Stanley</u> S.903/H1412, An Act to improve access to post-acute care; with the following improvements</p> <p>Dignity Alliance appreciates the attention Mass. Hospital Association has put in the bill relative to the issue of guardianship services. The Chair suggested that the bill include the text of S154/.253 An Act establishing guardians as providers of medical care to support the rights of incapacitated persons. We believe that the provisions in this legislation would increase the availability of those who would serve as guardians.</p> <p>Dignity would also recommend that Section 1, of S.903 be amended in line 11 after the term "independent living," by adding "and hospital at home:"</p>	<p>Endorsed by 25 DignityMA participants, including:</p> <p>Jennifer Boles, Danvers Boston Center for Independent Living, Boston Center for Living & Working, Worcester COP Amputee Association, Inc- COPAA, Wenham Disability Law Center, Boston John J. Ford, JD, Quincy Nancy Gardner, East Bridgewater Wynn Gerhard, Esq., Plymouth Margaret Morganroth Gullette, PhD, Newton Jerry Halberstadt, Stop Bullying Coalition, Peabody Steven Higgins, Independence Associates, Inc., East Bridgewater Paul J. Lanzikos, Beverly Richard Levasseur, Tewksbury LifePath, Greenfield, Franklin County and North Quabbin James A. Lomastro, PhD, Conway Mass Aging Access, Malden Basil Maurice, Springfield Former Senate President Pro Tem Richard T. Moore, Uxbridge</p>

Additionally, Dignity would like to recommend that Section 7 be amended in line 52, by inserting after the term "Behavioral Health Systems," the terms, "Mass Aging Access" (which represents home care providers) and "Dignity Alliance Massachusetts," which represents older adult and people with disabilities as consumers. While the bill does mention "other stakeholder groups," it is less likely that other groups will be included by Health and Human Services if they are not specifically mentioned.

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