

## [Don't lose sight of the struggles of veterans in nursing homes](#)

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By James Lomastro

Dignity Alliance Massachusetts supports calls to end homelessness, especially among veterans. Pairing housing with support services is key. American Rescue Plan Act funds provide a unique opportunity to reduce the current homeless population to essentially zero. However, the plight of thousands of veterans currently residing in nursing home settings also requires attention. The Legislature has appropriated [\\$200 million](#) in a bond issue to address the needs of older veterans, particularly those who desire to live with maximum independence in their community in a less restrictive environment. However, there has been little movement on the use of those funds.

While veterans may be secure in nursing home settings, recent revelations, particularly by the Disability Law Center in its report on [Bear Mountain in Worcester](#), indicate the perils of veterans among those who live in these facilities. We encourage the Healey administration to move on this funding and invest it in suitable housing for veterans.