



*Forget-me-nots are small flowers that symbolize remembrance, lasting connections, and respect. They are the symbol of DignityMA's campaign to raise the personal needs allowance for nursing and rest home residents..*

## *A Raise for Mom\**

*(or Dad or Grandma or Grandad)*

### **The Campaign to Increase the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA)**

For nearly 20 years, the Personal Needs Allowance for Nursing Home and Rest Home residents has been stuck at \$72.80 per month. If inflation had been factored since the amount was last set, the allowance should now be about \$113.42. Costs for everything have increased over the last two decades, but the PNA has remained unchanged. That means that folks residing in nursing homes and rest homes have been paying ever higher prices for their personal needs – items not covered within the care, room, and board required to be provided by nursing and rest homes. These residents are obligated to pay almost all their monthly Social Security and other income for their basic care leaving the PNA to cover all other life's necessities. Amplifying this situation, Massachusetts has the highest cost of living of any state in the continental United States - meaning these vulnerable residents can afford less each and every year.

Three similar bills have been filed in the Massachusetts Legislature this year and are awaiting a public hearing with the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, chaired by Senator Cindy Friedman and Representative John Lawn. The bills to raise the PNA are **Senate Bill 887** by Senator Joan Lovely and others; **Senate Bill 482** by Senators Patricia Jehlen and Mark Montigny and others; and **House Bill 1411** by Representative Thomas Stanley and others. As of early May, twenty-nine legislators (11 senators, 16 representatives) have already co-sponsored one or more of these bills. Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, AARP Massachusetts, and LeadingAge Massachusetts are among the statewide organizations which have indicated they support the PNA legislation. There's still time for other legislators to become co-sponsors.

If you are a nursing or rest home resident, family member, or caregiver and have a story about the inadequacy of the current PNA, your story can help put an important human face on why this raise is so necessary. **Please submit your story via <https://tinyurl.com/ForgetMeNotPNA> or you can email your story to Dignity Alliance MA ([info@DignityAllianceMA.org](mailto:info@DignityAllianceMA.org)) as soon as possible**, noting at least your first name and town where you live so that we can include your story in the testimony submitted to the Legislature.

*\*We selected the Forget-me-not as our symbol to encourage legislators to remember older adults in nursing and rest homes who have gone so long without a raise in the PNA.*