

Former Senator Dick Moore, a co-founder and legislative work group chair of Dignity Alliance, was among the aging organization representatives to address participants in Older Adult Lobby Day at the State House.

Senator Moore's remarks:

Welcome to your State House and to Beacon Hill! I'd like to ask for a show of hands of how many here have a relative or know someone who is a nursing home resident. (Many in the audience raised their hands) That's a large showing. So when you raise your voices here today and when you meet your legislators in their districts, I encourage you to also ask that Massachusetts give those residents a raise in the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA). It hasn't been increased in Massachusetts in nearly twenty years while inflation has eroded the purchasing power of the PNA. Let's raise the PNA to give nursing and rest home residents some dignity and quality of life. Massachusetts has the highest cost of living in the continental United States and nursing home residents can afford less each year because there hasn't been an increase in their allowance. Even when they get a cost of living increase in Social Security, nursing home residents don't enjoy any benefit because the PNA is a fixed dollar amount. Their Social Security cost of living raise goes to the state toward nursing home reimbursements. Nursing home residents need and deserve a raise! Ask your legislators to remember them, and not forget them again when they consider the state budget. Raise the PNA!