



The Dignity Digest

Issue # 252

September 30, 2025

The Dignity Digest contains information compiled by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts concerning long-term services, support, living options, and care issued each Tuesday.

	*May require registration before accessing the article.
DignityMA Zoom Sessions	Dignity Alliance Massachusetts participants meet via Zoom every other Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. Sessions are open to all. To receive session notices with agenda and Zoom links, please send a request via info@DignityAllianceMA.org .
Quotes	<i>All residents should be aware of their rights so they may be empowered to live with dignity and self-determination . . . This year's theme [for Residents' Rights Month] is "Stand with Me," highlighting the importance of solidarity and support for residents who stand up and support their rights</i> A Proclamation by Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Maura Healey in recognition of October as Residents' Rights Month <i>Ageism toward older adults affects their dignity, health and longevity, financial well-being and the economy of Massachusetts. . . Preventing ageism in education, employment, housing, culture and healthcare will benefit all.</i> A Proclamation by Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Maura Healey in recognition of Ageism Awareness Day, October 9, 2025 <i>The time for half-measures is over. Massachusetts must lead the nation in reforming nursing home oversight. That means requiring full disclosure of ownership structures, tying reimbursement to quality outcomes, and reinvesting in care-centered models that prioritize staffing, safety, and dignity.</i> Former State Senator Richard T. Moore, Chair, DignityMA Legislative Workgroup, <i>When Profit Trumps Care: The Hidden Toll of For-Profit Nursing Homes in Massachusetts</i>, September 24, 2025 <i>"Massachusetts will continue to lead with science and protect access to life-saving vaccines. We are</i>

taking this action today so the people of Massachusetts know that you will continue to be able to get the vaccines you want and need – no matter what happens at the federal level.”

Governor Maura Healey, (Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll, September 17, 2025)

New survey data from the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities shows that homeowners across Massachusetts are embracing accessory dwelling units (ADUs) following Governor Maura Healey’s [Affordable Homes Act](#), which allows ADUs to [built by-right](#) on single-family properties statewide. . . . In the first six months of 2025, homeowners in 170 communities filed 844 applications to build ADUs on their properties, of which at least 550 had been approved as of July 2025.

[ADU applications surge statewide under Governor Healey's Affordable Homes Act](#) (Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll, September 26, 2025)

The state’s watchdogs have spent little of the \$6.5 million in funding they received more than four years ago to provide fiscal oversight of billions of dollars in federal pandemic related aid that flowed into the state.

*[Funds to monitor COVID relief go unspent](#) (*Salem News, September 29, 2025)*

“[Implementation of the [One Big Beautiful Bill \(OBBB\)](#)] means that many current and future nursing home residents will not receive the care they need, or will be harmed, because there are not enough staff available. It is estimated that 13,000 lives will be lost each year due to understaffing. Understaffing puts residents at increased risk of abuse and neglect. It

	<i>also increases the risks to workers of injury and harm.”</i> Lori Smetanka, executive director of the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care, Three Striking Ways the 'Big Beautiful Bill' Affects Nursing Homes (Kiplinger, September 26, 2025) <i>“This will make it harder for older adults to get and maintain Medicaid coverage by allowing states to maintain bureaucratic requirements, such as complex income verification paperwork and frequent renewals that currently prevent eligible people from gaining and maintaining coverage.”</i> Justice in Aging, Three Striking Ways the 'Big Beautiful Bill' Affects Nursing Homes (Kiplinger, September 26, 2025) <i>New research shows that senior housing’s preventative approach to care contributes to increased quality of life for residents and reduced healthcare costs over time.</i> (NORC at the University of Chicago (NORC), September 23, 2025) Senior Housing Can Reduce Acute Care Services Needs for Older Adults (NORC at the University of Chicago (NORC), September 23, 2025)
Commentary Offered by DignityMA Participants  Richard T. Moore is Chair of the DignityMA Legislative Workgroup and a member of the Coordinating Committee.	<i>When Profit Trumps Care: The Hidden Toll of For-Profit Nursing Homes in Massachusetts</i> September 24, 2025 The Boston Globe’s recent article, <i>“Profit-seeking model linked to increase in hospital ER fatalities,”</i> is a sobering reminder of what happens when healthcare is treated as a business first and a public good second. While the piece focused on emergency departments, the same profit-driven logic has quietly reshaped elder care across Massachusetts—with devastating consequences. Today, over two-thirds of nursing homes in our Commonwealth are owned by for-profit entities. Many are controlled by private equity firms whose primary obligation is to investors, not residents. The result? A growing body of evidence shows that this model compromises safety, quality, and dignity. A 2023 study by the National Bureau of Economic Research found that private equity ownership of nursing homes led to an 11% increase in resident mortality. These facilities often operate with 10–15% fewer staff than their nonprofit

	counterparts. They're more likely to rely on antipsychotic medications to manage behavior, and less likely to invest in long-term staff training or compliance with care standards. In short, they cut corners—because corners are where profits hide. In Massachusetts, the Health Policy Commission has tracked the rapid expansion of private equity across our healthcare system. These deals frequently involve sale-leaseback arrangements and leveraged buyouts that saddle facilities with debt and divert resources away from direct care. This form of financial engineering may be sophisticated, but the outcomes are painfully simple: fewer nurses, more preventable injuries, and families left wondering whether their loved ones are truly safe. At Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, we hear these stories every day. Residents left in soiled linens. Call bells unanswered for hours. Families are forced to become watchdogs because oversight is too often reactive, not proactive. These are not isolated incidents; they are symptoms of a system that has lost its moral compass. This is not to say that all for-profit facilities are negligent. But when the dominant incentive is profit, care becomes transactional. The most vulnerable among us—older adults, people with disabilities, those without strong family advocates—are the ones who pay the price. We stand at a crossroads: continue down a path where profit trumps care, or chart a new course rooted in transparency, accountability, and compassion. The time for half-measures is over. Massachusetts must lead the nation in reforming nursing home oversight. That means requiring full disclosure of ownership structures, tying reimbursement to quality outcomes, and reinvesting in care-centered models that prioritize staffing, safety, and dignity. Our older adults deserve nothing less—and neither do we.
Remembering with Dignity To access the submission form scan  or click on:	<i>Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Launches “Remembering with Dignity,” a Digital Memorial to Honor Those who Died During the COVID-19 pandemic</i> To honor the more than 25,000 Massachusetts residents who died during the COVID-19 pandemic, Dignity Alliance Massachusetts (DignityMA) has launched “Remembering with Dignity,” a new online memorial. The public is invited to submit remembrances of those lost between January 2020 and May 2023.

https://tinyurl.com/DignityRemembrance or https://forms.gle/GbzP2H9RG1sWSzA3A. For more information or questions, contact: Deborah W. Coogan Chair, DignityMA's "Remembering with Dignity" initiative dwc@cooganlaw.com 617-332-8828	The COVID-19 pandemic caused unprecedented upheaval, and yet the 1.2 million Americans who died from the disease have no official national day or place of remembrance. During the COVID-19 emergency, widespread closures led to profound isolation. Many individuals died in healthcare and other facilities without the comfort of family, and survivors were often deprived of the ability to hold traditional funerals or grieve with their families and friends. "The pandemic left a void, not just in our families but in our collective memory," said Deborah W. Coogan, Chair of the 'Remembering with Dignity' initiative. "So many died in isolation, and their stories risk being lost in the statistics. 'Remembering with Dignity' provides a way to honor their essence – the values they lived by – and ensures they are remembered as more than just a number. It is a first step toward healing and advocating for a future where we better protect our most vulnerable." The platform seeks to capture the spirit of each individual. Submissions can be made at DignityMA's website. How to Submit a Remembrance: • Visit www.dignityalliancema.org and navigate to the "Pandemic Memorial" page under the "Resources" tab or click on https://tinyurl.com/DignityRemembrance or https://forms.gle/GbzP2H9RG1sWSzA3A. The QR code below can also be used. • A remembrance should be no more than 175 words. • Rather than a formal obituary, each submission should describe the person's essence, values, and their story. • Please include the circumstances of their passing (e.g., if they lived or worked in a high-risk setting such as a nursing home, rest home, group home, or hospital, or as a caregiver or essential worker). DignityMA will host a virtual event in the fall of 2025 or early 2026. This gathering will provide a forum for survivors to honor their loved ones and channel their grief into advocacy for policies that better protect vulnerable populations during future public health crises. Details will be announced at a later date.
Ageism Awareness Day on Oct. 9	The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation by Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Maura Healey

Whereas, Ageism refers to the stereotypes (how we think), prejudice (how we feel) and discrimination (how we act) toward others based on age; and

Whereas, There are an estimated 1.7 million older adults in Massachusetts over the age of sixty who are impacted by ageism; and

Whereas, Ageism toward older adults affects their dignity, health and longevity, financial well-being and the economy of Massachusetts; and

Whereas, Preventing ageism in education, employment, housing, culture and healthcare will benefit all; and

Whereas, Recognizing that it is up to all of us to ensure that older adults are respected and portrayed as capable, competent, effective and valued in all areas of society; and

Whereas, Ageism awareness and prevention of ageism is beneficial to all citizens of Massachusetts by improving quality of life within the Commonwealth,

Now, Therefore, I, Maura T. Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim October 9th, 2025, to be,

AGEISM AWARENESS DAY

And urge all the residents of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this first day of October, in the year two thousand and twenty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-ninth.

American Society on Aging

[Get Ready for Ageism Awareness Day](#)

Ageism Awareness Day shines a light on how ageism—through stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination—affects health, well-being, financial security, and our communities. Join ASA in taking action to build a more age-inclusive society. Visit the [Ageism Awareness Day website](#) for facts, guides and tools to spread awareness and get involved.

	This Ageism Awareness Day, spread the word that aging is a rich and varied experience, but one that unites us, and offers an opportunity to build a society that works for all ages.
October Is Resident Rights Month 	The Commonwealth of Massachusetts <i>A Proclamation by Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Maura Healey</i> <i>Whereas, As of January 2025, there were 34,500 residents living in 348 nursing homes, over 17,500 individuals living residences, and approximately 2,000 individuals living in 58 rest homes in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and</i> <i>Whereas, The federal Nursing Home Reform Act of 1987 guarantees residents their individual rights to promote and maintain their dignity and autonomy; and</i> <i>Whereas, All residents should be aware of their rights so they may be empowered to live with dignity and self-determination; and</i> <i>Whereas, All We wish to honor and celebrate these residents, to recognize their rich individuality, and reaffirm their right to vote and participate politically, including the right to have a say in their care; and</i> <i>Whereas, This year's theme is "Stand with Me," highlighting the importance of solidarity and support for residents who stand up and support their rights. As well as the values of encouraging the commentary to join long-term care facility residents in sharing their voices;</i> <i>Now, Therefore, I, Maura T. Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim October 2025, to be,</i> RESIDENTS' RIGHTS MONTH <i>And urge all the residents of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.</i> <i>Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this first day of October, in the year two thousand and twenty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-ninth.</i> From the Consumer Voice <u>Residents' Rights Month</u> In recognition of Residents' Rights Month, celebrated next month, we have created new resources and promotional materials:

	<u>Staying Engaged: Enrichment Booklet</u> - The 2025 edition of the Staying Engaged enrichment booklet for long-term care residents has a variety of activities aiming to keep you mentally engaged, prompt self-reflection, and remind you of the importance of advocating for your rights, especially your right to make choices about how to live your life. Download for free or order hard copies in our store. <u>Social Media Toolkit</u> - Use our new toolkit to effectively use social media to spread awareness about Residents' Rights Month. Get social media tips, hashtags, and sample posts and graphics. <u>Promotional Templates</u> - Spread the word about residents' rights by contacting your local newspaper or encouraging your governor and mayor to declare October Residents' Rights Month. Find templates on our website What's going on in your city or state for RRM? Fill out this form to add your celebration or media coverage to our new interactive map, which will highlight activities and media from across the country. <u>50 Resident Reflections</u> - In honor of Consumer Voice's 50th anniversary in 2025, we've created this book, <i>50 Resident Reflections</i>, to highlight a series of entries from residents of long-term care facilities from across the country, with residents sharing their insights on quality care and offering advice to family, friends, and caregivers. <u>Residents' Rights T-Shirts – Pre-Order</u> Join Consumer Voice in showing support for Residents' Rights! Too often, those around us don't put much thought into long-term care until it directly affects them. These shirts are a great way to let others know that long-term care residents have rights; Dignity & Respect, Privacy & Confidentiality, Freedom from Abuse & Neglect, the Ability to Voice Concerns, and Freedom from Retaliation are not just suggestions. T-shirts are navy blue, 100% cotton. <i>Currently available for pre-order. Shirts are expected to ship by the end of October.</i> https://theconsumervoice.org/product/residents-rights-t-shirts/
Healthy to 100: The Science of Social Connection SUBSCRIBE	Excerpt from the September 22, 2025 issue of the newsletter: <i>Why don't we oppose ageism as discrimination in a similar way to our opposition to racism or sexism?</i> -- Richard from Massachusetts Response by Ken: It may seem strange to have a question about ageism in a newsletter about social connection, but the topics are in fact closely connected. There are many costs to ageism, especially in a society which has been described by the anti-ageism crusader Ashton Applewhite as "grotesquely youth-centric," but among them is the negative self-perception of aging adopted by older people themselves. Over the course of a lifetime, older people have been conditioned to think of themselves as less useful, more forgetful, and less worthy of respect – with one of the results being that older

	people are less likely to seek social connection, especially intergenerational social connection. To quote Pogo Possum from the comic strip Pogo, “We have met the enemy and he is us.” It’s not terribly surprising to me that lots of people don’t take ageism seriously, because we are surrounded by social cues that tell us it is ok – even fun – to run down older adults. My colleague Emma reported to me that she recently went to buy a birthday card for someone turning 60 and all she could find were cards that said things like: “You deserve respect on your 60th birthday, so if anyone calls you old fart, you look them straight in the eye and say “that’s Mr. Old Fart to you!”” Hilarious. My teenage son Nate has been making fun of my age since he was in the crib. I asked him how he picked up that particular bias and he blamed it on the modeling of his older, rotten cousins, who have been similarly chastising their parents for their age for decades. The Sterns have probably been passing it down through the generations, since our days in the shtetl, though perhaps it sounded better in the original Yiddish. I do think that progress is being made, partly due to the tireless efforts of people like Ashton and organizations like the American Society on Aging. There is even an “anti-ageist birthday card project” , so Emma will not have to resort to construction paper and magic markers after all. I’ve also been heartened by some trends in popular media that frame older adults in more central roles and depict them in fuller, more complex and meaningful ways. I’m personally excited for the return of Man on the Inside this November for its second season, because shows like that are likely more effective in shifting public perceptions around aging than long missives from people like me.
Recruitment	See: Listings on MASsterList.com’s Job Board for all current listings
Guide to news items in this week’s <i>Dignity Digest</i>	Nursing Homes HHS ending appeals of nursing home staffing mandate cases (McKnights Long-Term Care News, September 24, 2025) Housing ADU applications surge statewide under Governor Healey’s Affordable Homes Act (Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll, September 26, 2025) (NORC at the University of Chicago (NORC), September 23, 2025) Senior Housing Can Reduce Acute Care Services Needs for Older Adults (NORC at the University of Chicago (NORC),0 September 23, 2025 Healthcare Topics Healey-Driscoll Administration Issues Evidence-Based COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance to Ensure Access for Residents (Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll, September 17, 2025) Federal Policy

	Staffing rule repeal would ease financial pressure on CCRCs with SNFs, Fitch says (McKnights Long-Term Care News, September 29, 2025) Three Striking Ways the 'Big Beautiful Bill' Affects Nursing Homes (Kiplinger, September 26, 2025) State Policy Funds to monitor COVID relief go unspent (*Salem News, September 29, 2025) Public Sessions MassHealth, Friday, October 3, 2025, 11:00 a.m., Public hearing, Proposed changes to managed care requirements. MassHealth, Friday, October 3, 2025, 12:00 p.m., Public hearing MassHealth holds a public hearing on an emergency regulation that took effect on Sept. 12 for adult foster care. MassHealth, Friday, October 3, 2025, 2:00 p.m., Public hearing, MassHealth holds a public hearing on an emergency regulation that took effect on Sept. 8 dealing with long-term care services, specifically for nursing facilities that have had an ownership change.
DignityMA Study Sessions <i>Special Focus on Changes in Federal Policies, Programs, and Services</i>	Unprecedented public policy changes have been occurring since the onset of the Trump Administration three months ago. Programs, policies, and initiatives of importance to older adults, persons with disabilities, and caregivers are not exempted. The implications are starting to become known. The impacts will be experienced in the months and years ahead. No sector is being spared. Health care, social services, Social Security, civil rights, housing, and more are all under historic attack. Some areas are being “downsized,” some are being disrupted or radically modified, and others are being eliminated outright. Dignity Alliance Massachusetts has invited three nationally known experts regarding public policy and programs affecting older adults, persons with disabilities, and caregivers to share up-to-the-minute information, their analysis, and strategies for individuals and organizations to adopt in response. The presenters are: • Bob Blancato, National Coordinator of the bipartisan 3000-member Elder Justice Coalition • James Roosevelt, JD, former Associate Commissioner, U.S. Social Security Administration • Steven Schwartz, JD, Special Counsel, Center for Public Representation Recordings of Jim Roosevelt’s and Steve Schwartz’s presentations are available at https://dignityalliancema.org/videos/. Bob Blancato’s presentation is being rescheduled.
DignityMA Study Session	<i>Ageing Policy Update: What We Know, What We Don’t Know, and What We Should Fear</i> Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 2:00 p.m.

 Bob Blancato, National Coordinator, Elder Justice Coalition	Unfortunately, this session is being rescheduled. Date to be announced. Presenter: Bob Blancato, National Coordinator of the bipartisan 3000-member Elder Justice Coalition Registration required: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/kQRVG7FiR2iVrmQWN52M6g Bob discusses the current state of aging policy at the national level under the new Congress and Administration. This presentation will focus on key shifts in aging policy, identifies emerging challenges, and outlines advocacy opportunities that will protect and shape services for older Americans in the coming year. Bob is also the Executive Director of the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Service Programs. He spent 17 years on the staff of the U.S. House Select Committee on Aging and has participated in four White House Conferences on Aging, including as the Executive Director of the 1995 White House Conference on Aging.
Community hearing and Resource Fair	Permanent Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities <u>Meeting the Moment, A Community Hearing and Resource Fair</u> Tuesday, November 4, 2025, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Needham Town Hall 1471 Highland Ave. Needham This is the first in a series of community hearings to listen and learn from individuals with disabilities, families, caregivers, service providers, and advocates, and to connect with local organizations, state agencies, and disability commissions at a resource fair. The evening will include: • An introduction to the work of the Commission • An opportunity for community members to share their experiences, needs, and priorities • A resource fair with community organizations, state agencies, and local disability commissions Community members are welcome to submit written testimony in advance. Testimony during the event will be limited to 2 minutes each, and if time allows, there will also be space for day-of sharing. Testimony can be submitted during registration here or via email at cspwdinfo@mass.gov. ASL and CART services have been requested. Register
Webinars and Online Sessions	1. The Milbank Quarterly Thursday, October 23, 2025, 12:00 p.m. Understanding the Structural Determinants of Health Structural determinants of health are hierarchical patterns of advantage among socially constructed groups that affect health. Unlike social determinants of health, the structural determinants of health are maintained through power relations. Panelists include:

	• Tyson Brown, Duke University, coauthor of "The Future of Social Determinants of Health: Looking Upstream to Structural Drivers" • Jonathan Heller, University of Wisconsin–Madison, coauthor of "Keeping It Political and Powerful: Defining the Structural Determinants of Health" • Jamila Michener, Cornell University, author of "Building Power for Health: The Grassroots Politics of Sustaining and Strengthening Medicaid" (<i>Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law</i>) Register
Previously posted webinars and online sessions	Previously posted webinars and online sessions can be viewed at: https://dignityalliancema.org/webinars-and-online-sessions/
Nursing Homes	2. McKnights Long-Term Care September 24, 2025 HHS ending appeals of nursing home staffing mandate cases By Kimberly Marselas <i>HHS Drops Appeals on Nursing Home Staffing Mandate</i> The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has requested the dismissal of its appeals in two federal courts, effectively ending its legal defense of the nursing home staffing mandate. This move aligns with a recent White House proposal to repeal the rule, signaling the mandate's likely defeat. Key Developments • Legal Action: HHS filed motions to voluntarily dismiss its appeals in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth and Eighth Circuits. The Fifth Circuit has already granted the dismissal. • Reasoning: The administration's legal strategy is now consistent with its recent proposal to rescind the staffing rule, which was creating confusion. • Court Rulings: This decision upholds earlier rulings from District Courts in Texas and Iowa, which had struck down key provisions of the mandate, stating that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) had overstepped its authority. Industry Reaction • Support for Dismissal: Leaders from the American Health Care Association (AHCA) and LeadingAge expressed approval, calling the mandate "misguided" and "one-size-fits-all." • Future Focus: Industry groups look forward to collaborating with policymakers on more effective policies to improve care and support the long-term care workforce. Background on the Mandate • Requirements: The rule, finalized in early 2024, would have required all U.S. nursing homes to have around-the-clock registered nurse (RN) staffing and established minimum care hours for RNs and certified nursing assistants (CNAs). • Repeal Status: The full text of the CMS rule to repeal the mandate has not yet been made public and is currently under review by the Office of Management and Budget.

Housing	3. Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll September 26, 2025 <u>ADU applications surge statewide under Governor Healey's Affordable Homes Act</u> <i>550+ approvals to date under new by-right rules in first half of 2025</i> Following Governor Maura Healey's Affordable Homes Act, which allows Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) to be built "by-right" statewide, there has been a significant increase in applications. ADUs, also known as in-law apartments, are seen as a strategy to increase housing supply and lower costs. Key Statistics (January - June 2025) • 844 applications were filed across 170 communities. • At least 550 applications had been approved as of July 2025. • The goal of the new law is to help seniors stay in their communities, allow families to earn extra income, and provide independent living space for individuals with disabilities or adult children. Top Communities for ADU Applications The communities with the most ADU applications filed (excluding Boston) are: • Plymouth: 32 • Milton: 25 • Worcester: 24 • Newton: 19 • Fairhaven: 18 • Billerica: 18 • Haverhill: 17 • Revere: 17 • Lawrence: 14 • Falmouth: 14 Policy Change and Impact • Previous Law: A complex patchwork of local zoning rules and discretionary approvals made it difficult to build ADUs. • New Law: ADUs under 900 square feet can now be built by-right in single-family zoning districts across the state. Boston has its own separate by-right ordinance. • The change provides a clear pathway for homeowners to create additional housing. Resources for Homeowners and Municipalities • An interactive map tracking ADU applications is available at Mass.gov/ADU. • Homeowners building an ADU for individuals with disabilities or people over 60 may qualify for no-interest financing through the Home Modification Loan Program.
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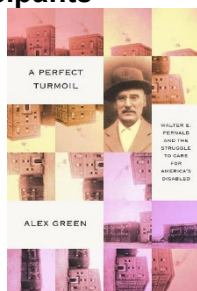
	• Municipalities can apply for funding to help draft and enact local ADU rules through the Community One Stop for Growth. 4. NORC at the University of Chicago (NORC) September 23, 2025 <i>Senior Housing Can Reduce Acute Care Services Needs for Older Adults</i> By Tim Jackson New research shows that senior housing’s preventative approach to care contributes to increased quality of life for residents and reduced healthcare costs over time. The analysis was conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago (NORC) and supported by NIC. Researchers assessed the sustained impact senior housing has on residents’ health and medical costs and found that older adults who remain in senior housing utilize less acute care services and see their health stabilize for several years after moving in. Researchers also found that senior housing can promote health and wellness of residents with neurodegenerative diseases(NDD) by reducing the number of hospitalizations and readmissions, providing relief for family caregivers, and enabling timely access to care in a supportive environment, ultimately leading to greater longevity. Key takeaways: • Approximately one in four residents had a hospital admission in year three, compared to one in three in the first year. • The proportion of residents with an emergency department visit declined by 14% from year one to year three. • Average total Medicare costs per patient were \$7.2K lower in year three than in year one. • Top-performing senior housing communities created greater stability and safety for residents with NDD by reducing hospital visits, stays and readmissions—as well as lowering costs. These findings suggest that senior housing continues to improve residents’ health and well-being for several years post move-in as operators provide effective and efficient solutions that help address unique healthcare challenges. The research is part of an ongoing initiative led by NIC, in collaboration with NORC, to assess how senior housing supports the health and well-being of older adults. For full methodology and findings, click here.
Healthcare Topics	5. Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll September 17, 2025 <i>Healey-Driscoll Administration Issues Evidence-Based COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance to Ensure Access for Residents</i> The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has released its evidence-based COVID-19 vaccine guidance for 2025-2026, aiming to protect access for residents. The guidance was issued before the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) meeting to ensure that residents can continue to get the vaccines they need, regardless of federal-level decisions.

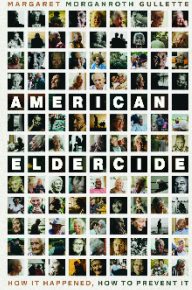
	Vaccination Recommendations The guidance, which aligns with recommendations from several professional medical societies, recommends the COVID-19 vaccine for the following groups: • Children 6-23 months: Vaccination is recommended for all children in this age group. • Children and adolescents 2-18 years: Vaccination is recommended for those at high risk, in long-term care, never vaccinated, or who have high-risk household members. Healthy individuals in this group may also be vaccinated. • Adults 19-64 years: Vaccination is recommended for all adults, especially those with risk factors, higher exposure risk, or who live with high-risk individuals. Healthy adults may also be vaccinated. • Adults 65 years and older: Vaccination is recommended for all individuals in this age group. • Pregnant and lactating individuals: Vaccination is recommended for those who are pregnant, contemplating pregnancy, recently pregnant, or lactating. • Immunocompromised individuals: These individuals should consult their healthcare provider about the need for additional doses. Context and Rationale Governor Healey stated that Massachusetts will "continue to lead with science and protect access to life-saving vaccines" and will not let political figures like Donald Trump or Robert Kennedy "take away your ability to make your own health care decisions." The administration is issuing this guidance before the ACIP and CDC finalize their recommendations to provide residents with guidance based on the best available science from leading medical organizations. Additional Actions to Ensure Access Several steps have been taken to ensure vaccine availability: • A standing order was signed authorizing pharmacists to vaccinate all eligible individuals. • A bulletin was issued requiring insurers to cover the cost of recommended vaccines. • The Board of Registration in Pharmacy authorized pharmacists to administer any vaccine recommended by the Commissioner.
Federal Policy	6. McKnights Long-Term Care News September 29, 2025 <u>Staffing rule repeal would ease financial pressure on CCRCs with SNFs, Fitch says</u> By Kathleen Steele Gaivin Repeal of Nursing Home Staffing Rule The Trump administration has proposed a final rule to repeal the federal minimum staffing mandate for nursing homes, which was established by the Biden administration in 2024. The Department of Health and Human Services has also moved to dismiss its own appeals that were defending the mandate, making the rule's repeal almost certain. Financial Impact on Retirement Communities

	According to Fitch Ratings, this repeal would provide significant financial relief to Continuing Care Retirement / Life Plan Communities (CCRCs), particularly those with a large component of Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs). • Reduced Pressure: The repeal would alleviate wage, staffing, and operating pressures. • Benefit for SNF-Heavy CCRCs: Communities with a higher concentration of SNF beds stand to benefit the most, as they have been under more severe financial strain. Challenges for Communities with Skilled Nursing CCRCs with a large number of SNF beds face distinct financial disadvantages compared to those focused on independent living. • Limited Rate Increases: Their reliance on government payers like Medicaid, whose reimbursement rates have not matched rising staffing expenses, restricts their ability to raise prices. • Inability to Reduce Beds: These facilities often depend on external admissions for their core operations, making it difficult to take SNF beds out of service to manage costs. • Credit Risk: These financial pressures have led to lower credit ratings and, in some instances, default since the pandemic. Flexibility in Independent Living Communities CCRCs that consist mainly of independent living units have greater financial flexibility. • Cost Spreading: They can use revenue from the independent living side to subsidize SNF-related costs. • Adjustable Capacity: Operators have the option to temporarily reduce the number of skilled nursing beds to cut staffing and other expenses as needed. Ongoing Labor Market Concerns Despite the regulatory relief, Fitch notes that CCRCs will likely continue to face staffing and cost pressures due to a competitive healthcare labor market. Changes to immigration policies, such as H-1B visa fees, are expected to have a limited direct impact, as most bedside registered nurses in long-term care are recruited through EB-3 visas. 7. Kiplinger September 26, 2025 <i>Three Striking Ways the 'Big Beautiful Bill' Affects Nursing Homes</i> By Elaine Silvestrini Reduced Staffing Requirements • A new law, the "One Big Beautiful Bill" (OBBB), delays the implementation of a rule requiring minimum staffing standards in nursing homes for 10 years. • This rule would have mandated a registered nurse on-site 24/7. • Critics, like the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care, warn this will lead to inadequate care, increased risk of abuse and neglect, and an estimated 13,000 preventable deaths annually. Increased Costs for Medicaid Coverage
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	• The OBBB reduces the retroactive period for Medicaid coverage from three months to two, potentially leaving individuals with larger out-of-pocket expenses while their application is processed. • The law also freezes for a decade rules intended to simplify Medicaid enrollment, making it more difficult for seniors to obtain and keep their coverage. • Starting in 2028, a \$1 million cap on home equity will be implemented to qualify for Medicaid long-term care, and this cap will not be adjusted for inflation. Higher Demand for Nursing Homes • The new law may lead to cuts in optional Medicaid benefits like home and community-based care. This could force more people into nursing homes, increasing demand. • Immigration crackdowns are exacerbating staffing shortages in nursing homes, which heavily rely on foreign-born workers.
State Policy	8. *Salem News September 29, 2025 Funds to monitor COVID relief go unspent By Christian M. Wade Overview of Funding and Expenditures • The state Legislature allocated \$6.5 million in 2021 to four watchdog agencies for the fiscal oversight of billions in federal pandemic aid, such as the American Rescue Plan. • As of June 30, the agencies have spent only about \$1 million of the allocated \$6.5 million. • The original deadline for using the oversight funds was December 31, 2022, but lawmakers extended the deadline. Agency Spending Breakdown (from Allocated Share) The total allocation was \$6.5 million. The following figures reflect spending from each agency's individual share (mostly \$1.6 million each): • Inspector General's Office (IG): Spent the most at \$751,891. The IG's latest report showed \$779,879 spent as of June 30, primarily on payroll costs. • State Comptroller's Office: Spent \$280,267. • State Auditor Diana DiZoglio's Office: Spent only \$13,700. The office notes it is using other federal COVID-related funds for audits and will only use the oversight money when "truly necessary." • Attorney General's Office: Has used none of its allocated funding. The office's fraud divisions are focused on prosecuting fraud, including COVID-19 cases, using other resources. Criticism and Defense Criticism of Lax Oversight: • Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr: Questioned the lack of oversight given the massive influx of federal money, citing the state's \$2.1 billion mistake in wrongly using federal funds for state unemployment benefits as an example of the high cost of lax oversight.

	• Paul Craney (Executive Director, Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance): Stated that the role of a taxpayer watchdog "doesn't exist" and criticized officials for not being serious about watching out for taxpayers. Defense from Watchdog Agencies: • The agencies defend the low spending by stating they are being cautious with taxpayer dollars. • They confirm they are conducting investigations and audits of pandemic funds, often using their own budgetary funds alongside the dedicated allocation. • The IG's office has publicly disclosed investigations, including a case where a Florida woman was sentenced to 10 months in prison and ordered to pay \$222,074 in restitution for fraud related to a Massachusetts housing agency and the federal Paycheck Protection Program.
Public Sessions	9. MassHealth Friday, October 3, 2025, 11:00 a.m. Public hearing Proposed changes to managed care requirements. The changes replace outdated terminology and update eligibility for One Care and Senior Care Options plans, update copay requirements and clarify requirements for members who transfer managed care plans. The regulation would go into effect no earlier than Jan. 1, 2026. More Info and Access 10. MassHealth Friday, October 3, 2025, 12:00 p.m. Public hearing MassHealth holds a public hearing on an emergency regulation that took effect on Sept. 12 for adult foster care. It requires that providers at the time of accreditation or re-accreditation must be delivering adult foster care or group adult foster care services to at least eight individuals in order to "efficiently" provide care. More Info and Access 11. MassHealth Friday, October 3, 2025, 2:00 p.m. Public hearing MassHealth holds a public hearing on an emergency regulation that took effect on Sept. 8 dealing with long-term care services, specifically for nursing facilities that have had an ownership change. The regulatory change allows facilities that are enrolling in MassHealth to conditionally enroll once their Medicare certification is complete. "If the facility does not receive Medicare certification within nine months of the conditional enrollment, MassHealth payments will be suspended until such time as the Medicare certification is complete," the hearing notice says. More Info and Access
<i>A Raise for Mom: Campaign to Increase the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA)</i>	<i>The Campaign to Increase the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA)</i> 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 the middle of May, twenty-nine legislators (11 senators, 16 representatives) have already co-sponsored one or more of these bills. DignityMA, AARP Massachusetts, and LeadingAge Massachusetts are among the statewide organizations that have indicated support of the PNA legislation. There's still time for other legislators to become co-sponsors. Please contact your state senator and representative using this link: https://dignityalliancema.org/take-action/#/25. It literally takes less than a minute to deliver the message. 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), 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. <i>*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.</i>
Books by DignityMA Participants 	<u>A Perfect Turmoil: Walter E. Fernald and the Struggle to Care for America's Disabled</u> By Alex Green From the moment he became superintendent of the nation's oldest public school for intellectually and developmentally disabled children in 1887 until his death in 1924, Dr. Walter E. Fernald led a wholesale transformation of our understanding of disabilities in ways that continue to influence our views today. How did the man who designed the first special education class in America, shaped the laws of entire nations, and developed innovative medical treatments

About the Author: Alex Green teaches political communications at Harvard Kennedy School and is a visiting fellow at the Harvard Law School Project on Disability and a visiting scholar at Brandeis University Lurie Institute for Disability Policy. He is the author of legislation to create a first-of-its-kind, disability-led human rights commission to investigate the history of state institutions for disabled people in Massachusetts.	for the disabled slip from idealism into the throes of eugenics before emerging as an opponent of mass institutionalization? Based on a decade of research, <i>A Perfect Turmoil</i> is the story of a doctor, educator, and policymaker who was unafraid to reverse course when convinced by the evidence, even if it meant going up against some of the most powerful forces of his time. In this landmark work, Alex Green has drawn upon extensive, unexamined archives to unearth the hidden story of one of America's largely forgotten, but most complex, conflicted, and significant figures. Buy the book here
Books by DignityMA Participants  About the Author: Margaret Morganroth Gullette is a cultural critic and anti-ageism pioneer whose prize-winning work is foundational in critical age studies. She is the author of several books, including <i>Agewise</i>, <i>Aged by Culture</i>, and <i>Ending Ageism, or How Not to Shoot Old People</i>. Her writing has appeared in publications such as the <i>New York Times</i>, <i>Washington Post</i>, <i>Guardian</i>, <i>Atlantic</i>, <i>Nation</i>, and the <i>Boston Globe</i>. She is a resident scholar at the Women's Studies Research Center, Brandeis, and lives in Newton, Massachusetts.	American Eldercide: How It Happened, How to Prevent It By Margaret Morganroth Gullette A bracing spotlight on the avoidable causes of the COVID-19 Eldercide in the United States. Twenty percent of the Americans who have died of COVID since 2020 have been older and disabled adults residing in nursing homes—even though they make up fewer than one percent of the US population. Something about this catastrophic loss of life in government-monitored facilities has never added up. Until now. In <i>American Eldercide</i>, activist and scholar Margaret Morganroth Gullette investigates this tragic public health crisis with a passionate voice and razor-sharp attention to detail, showing us that nothing about it was inevitable. By unpacking the decisions that led to discrimination against nursing home residents, revealing how governments, doctors, and media reinforced ageist or ableist biases, and collecting the previously little-heard voices of the residents who survived, Gullette helps us understand the workings of what she persuasively calls an eldercide. Gullette argues that it was our collective indifference, fueled by the heightened ageism of the COVID-19 era, that prematurely killed this vulnerable population. Compounding that deadly indifference is our own panic about aging and a social bias in favor of youth-based decisions about lifesaving care. The compassion this country failed to muster for the residents of our nursing facilities motivated Gullette to pen an act of remembrance, issuing a call for pro-aging changes in policy and culture that would improve long-term care for everyone. Buy the book here.
Bringing People Home: The Marsters Settlement	Webpages: https://www.centerforpublicrep.org/court_case/marsters-et-al-v-healey-et-al/ https://marsters.centerforpublicrep.org/
Support Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Please Donate!	Dignity Alliance Massachusetts is a grassroots, volunteer-run 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to transformative change to ensure the dignity of older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers. We are committed to advancing ways of providing long-term services, support, living options and care that respect individual choice and self-determination. Through education, legislation, regulatory reform, and

	legal strategies, this mission will become reality throughout the Commonwealth. As a fully volunteer operation, our financial needs are modest, but also real. Your donation helps to produce and distribute <i>The Dignity Digest</i> weekly free of charge to almost 1,000 recipients and maintain our website, www.DignityAllianceMA.org, which has thousands of visits each month. Consider a donation in memory or honor of someone. The names of those recognized will be included in The Dignity Digest and posted on the website. https://dignityalliancema.org/donate/ Thank you for your consideration!	
Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Legislative Endorsements	Information about the legislative bills which have been endorsed by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, including the text of the bills, can be viewed at: https://tinyurl.com/DignityLegislativeEndorsements Questions or comments can be directed to Legislative Work Group Chair Richard (Dick) Moore at rmoores8473@charter.net.	
Websites		
Blogs		
Podcasts		
YouTube Channels		
Previously recommended websites	The comprehensive list of recommended websites has migrated to the Dignity Alliance MA website: https://dignityalliancema.org/resources/. Only new recommendations will be listed in <i>The Dignity Digest</i>.	
Previously posted funding opportunities	For open funding opportunities previously posted in <i>The Tuesday Digest</i> please see https://dignityalliancema.org/funding-opportunities/.	
Websites of Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Members	See: https://dignityalliancema.org/about/organizations/	
Contact information for reporting complaints and concerns	Nursing home	Department of Public Health 1. Print and complete the Consumer/Resident/Patient Complaint Form 2. Fax completed form to (617) 753-8165 Or Mail to 67 Forest Street, Marlborough, MA 01752 Ombudsman Program
MassHealth Eligibility Information	MassHealth / Massachusetts Medicaid Income & Asset Limits for Nursing Homes & Long-Term Care Table of Contents (Last updated: December 16, 2024) Massachusetts Medicaid Long-Term Care Definition Income & Asset Limits for Eligibility Income Definition & Exceptions	

	Asset Definition & Exceptions Home Exemption Rules Medical / Functional Need Requirements Qualifying When Over the Limits Specific Massachusetts Medicaid Programs How to Apply for Massachusetts Medicaid
Money Follows the Person	MassHealth Money Follows the Person The Money Follows the Person (MFP) Demonstration helps older adults and people with disabilities move from nursing facilities, chronic disease or rehabilitation hospitals, or other qualified facilities back to the community. Statistics as of March 31, 2025: 344 people transitioned out of nursing facilities in 2024 49 transitions in January and February 2025 910 currently in transition planning Open PDF file, 1.34 MB, MFP Demonstration Brochure MFP Demonstration Brochure - Accessible Version MFP Demonstration Fact Sheet MFP Demonstration Fact Sheet - Accessible Version
Nursing Home Closures	List of Nursing Home Closures in Massachusetts Since July 2021: https://dignityalliancema.org/2025/04/07/nursing-home-closures-since-july-2021/
Determination of Need Projects	List of Determination of Need Applications regarding nursing homes since 2020: https://dignityalliancema.org/2025/04/07/list-of-determination-of-need-applications/ Recent approval: Town of Nantucket – Long Term Care Substantial Capital Expenditure Approved May 5, 2025
List of Special Focus Facilities	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services <i>List of Special Focus Facilities and Candidates</i> https://www.cms.gov/files/document/sff-posting-candidate-list-march-2025.pdf Updated March 26, 2025 CMS has published a new list of Special Focus Facilities (SFF). SFFs are nursing homes with serious quality issues based on a calculation of deficiencies cited during inspections and the scope and severity level of those citations. CMS publicly discloses the names of the facilities chosen to participate in this program and candidate nursing homes. To be considered for the SFF program, a facility must have a history (at least 3 years) of serious quality issues. These nursing facilities generally have more deficiencies than the average facility, and more serious problems such as harm or injury to residents. Special Focus Facilities have more frequent surveys and are subject to progressive enforcement until it either graduates from the program or is terminated from Medicare and/or Medicaid.

	This is important information for consumers – particularly as they consider a nursing home. What can advocates do with this information? • Include the list of facilities in your area/state when providing information to consumers who are looking for a nursing home. Include an explanation of the SFF program and the candidate list. • Post the list on your program's/organization's website (along with the explanation noted above). • Encourage current residents and families to check the list to see if their facility is included. • Urge residents and families in a candidate facility to ask the administrator what is being done to improve care. • Suggest that resident and family councils invite the administrator to a council meeting to talk about what the facility is doing to improve care, ask for ongoing updates, and share any council concerns. • For long-term care ombudsmen representatives: Meet with the administrator to discuss what the facility is doing to address problems and share any resources that might be helpful. Massachusetts facilities listed (updated) Newly added to the listing • Salem Rehab Center, Salem https://www.adviniacare.com/adviniacare-salem/ Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225644/ • Fall River Healthcare https://www.nextstephc.com/fallriver Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225723/ Massachusetts facilities which have graduated from the program • Marlborough Hills Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, Marlborough https://tinyurl.com/MarlboroughHills Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225063 • Somerset Ridge Center, Somerset https://somersestridgerehab.com/ Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225747 • Tremont Healthcare Center, Wareham https://thetremontrehabcare.com/ Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225488/ Massachusetts facilities that are candidates for listing (months on list) • AdviniaCare Newburyport (13) https://www.adviniacare.com/adviniacare-country-center/ Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225332 • Brandon Woods of New Bedford (1)
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	https://brandonwoodsnewbedford.com/ Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225264/ • Cape Cod Post Acute, Brewster (9) https://capecodrehabhc.com/ Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225667/ • Charwell House Health and Rehabilitation, Norwood (37) https://tinyurl.com/Charwell Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225208 • Life Care Center of Merrimack Valley, Billerica (2) https://lcca.com/locations/ma/merrimack-valley/ Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225546/ • Medway Country Manor Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation, Medway (1) https://www.medwaymanor.com/ Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225412 • Pine Knoll Nursing Center, Lexington, (3) https://www.longtermcentersgroup.com/About-Pine-Knoll-Nursing-Center-Rehab Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225049/ • RegalCare at Glen Ridge (20) https://www.genesishcc.com/glenridge Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225523 • West Newton Healthcare, West Newton (9) https://www.nextstephpc.com/westnewton Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225324/ No longer operating • South Dennis Healthcare, South Dennis https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram
<i>Nursing Home Inspect</i>	ProPublica Nursing Home Inspect Data updated April 23, 2025 This app uses data from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Fines are listed for the past three years if a home has made partial or full payment (fines under appeal are not included). Information on deficiencies comes from a home's last three inspection cycles, or roughly three years in total. The number of COVID-19 cases is since May 8, 2020, when homes were required to begin reporting this information to the federal government (some homes may have included data on earlier cases). Massachusetts listing: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/state/MA Deficiencies By Severity in Massachusetts

	(What do the severity ratings mean?) <table><tr><th>Deficiency Tag</th><th># Deficiencies</th><th>in # Facilities</th><th>MA facilities cited</th></tr><tr><td>B</td><td>315</td><td>222</td><td>Tag B</td></tr><tr><td>C</td><td>106</td><td>82</td><td>Tag C</td></tr><tr><td>D</td><td>7,445</td><td>1,401</td><td>Tag D</td></tr><tr><td>E</td><td>2,133</td><td>767</td><td>Tag E</td></tr><tr><td>F</td><td>676</td><td>314</td><td>Tag F</td></tr><tr><td>G</td><td>517</td><td>339</td><td>Tag G</td></tr><tr><td>H</td><td>58</td><td>35</td><td>Tag H</td></tr><tr><td>I</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>Tag I</td></tr><tr><td>J</td><td>53</td><td>28</td><td>Tag J</td></tr><tr><td>K</td><td>27</td><td>9</td><td>Tag K</td></tr><tr><td>L</td><td>9</td><td>3</td><td>Tag L</td></tr></table> Updated April 23, 2025	Deficiency Tag	# Deficiencies	in # Facilities	MA facilities cited	B	315	222	Tag B	C	106	82	Tag C	D	7,445	1,401	Tag D	E	2,133	767	Tag E	F	676	314	Tag F	G	517	339	Tag G	H	58	35	Tag H	I	3	2	Tag I	J	53	28	Tag J	K	27	9	Tag K	L	9	3	Tag L
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L	9	3	Tag L																																														
Nursing Home Compare	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) <i>Nursing Home Compare Website</i> Beginning January 26, 2022, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is posting new information that will help consumers have a better understanding of certain staffing information and concerns at facilities. This information will be posted for each facility and includes: • Staff turnover: The percentage of nursing staff as well as the number of administrators who have stopped working at a nursing home over the past 12-month period. • Weekend staff: The level of weekend staffing for nurses and registered nurses at a nursing home over a three-month period. Posting this information was required as part of the Affordable Care Act, which was passed in 2010. In many facilities, staffing is lower on weekends, often meaning residents have to wait longer or may not receive all the care they need. High turnover means that staff are less likely to know the residents, recognize changes in condition, or implement preferred methods of providing care. All of this contributes to the quality-of-care residents receive and their quality of life. https://tinyurl.com/NursingHomeCompareWebsite																																																
Data on Ownership of Nursing Homes	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services <i>Data on Ownership of Nursing Homes</i> CMS has released data giving state licensing officials, state and federal law enforcement, researchers, and the public an enhanced ability to identify common owners of nursing homes across nursing home locations. This information can be linked to other data sources to identify the performance of facilities under common ownership, such as owners affiliated with multiple nursing homes with a record of poor performance. The data is available on nursing home ownership will be posted to data.cms.gov and updated monthly.																																																
DignityMA Call Action	• Advocate for state bills that advance the Dignity Alliance Massachusetts' Mission and Goals – State Legislative Endorsements. • Support relevant bills in Washington – Federal Legislative Endorsements. • Join our Work Groups.																																																

	• Learn to use and leverage social media at our workshops: Engaging Everyone: Creating Accessible, Powerful Social Media Content		
Access to Dignity Alliance social media	Email: info@DignityAllianceMA.org Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/DignityAllianceMA/ Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/dignityalliance/ LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/dignity-alliance-massachusetts Twitter: https://twitter.com/dignity_ma?s=21 Website: www.DignityAllianceMA.org		
Participation opportunities with Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Most workgroups meet bi-weekly via Zoom. Interest Groups meet periodically (monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly). Please contact group leaders for more information.	Workgroup	Workgroup lead	Email
	General Membership	Bill Henning Paul Lanzikos	bhenning@bostoncil.org paul.lanzikos@gmail.com
	Assisted Living	John Ford	jford@njc-ma.org
	Behavioral Health	Frank Baskin	baskinfrank19@gmail.com
	Communications	Lachlan Forrow	lforrow@bidmc.harvard.edu
	Facilities (Nursing homes and rest homes)	Jim Lomastro Arlene Germain	jimlomastro@comcast.net
	Home and Community Based Services	Meg Coffin	mcoffin@centerlw.org
	Legislative	Richard Moore	Dickmoore1943@gmail.com
	Legal Issues	Stephen Schwartz	sschwartz@cpr-ma.org
	Interest Group	Group lead	Email
	Housing	Bill Henning	bhenning@bostoncil.org
	Veteran Services	James Lomastro	jimlomastro@comcast.net
	Transportation	Frank Baskin Chris Hoeh	baskinfrank19@gmail.com cdhoeh@gmail.com
	Covid / Long Covid	James Lomastro	jimlomastro@comcast.net
	Incarcerated Persons	TBD	info@DignityAllianceMA.org
Bringing People Home: Implementing the Marsters class action settlement	Website: https://marsters.centerforpublicrep.org/ Center for Public Representation 5 Ferry Street, #314, Easthampton, MA 01027 413-586-6024, Press 2 bringingpeoplehome@cpr-ma.org Newsletter registration: https://marsters.centerforpublicrep.org/7b3c2-contact/		
REV UP Massachusetts	REV UP Massachusetts advocates for the fair and civic inclusion of people with disabilities in every political, social, and economic front. REV Up aims to increase the number of people with disabilities who vote. Website: https://revupma.org/wp/ To join REV UP Massachusetts – go to the SIGN UP page .		
The Dignity Digest	For a free weekly subscription to <i>The Dignity Digest</i> : https://dignityalliancema.org/contact/sign-up-for-emails/ Editor: Paul Lanzikos Primary contributor: Sandy Novack MailChimp Specialist: Sue Rorke		

Note of thanks	Thanks to the contributors to this issue of <i>The Dignity Digest</i>: • Charlie Carr • Dick Moore Special thanks to the MetroWest Center for Independent Living for assistance with the website and MailChimp versions of <i>The Dignity Digest</i>. <i>If you have submissions for inclusion in <u>The Dignity Digest</u> or have questions or comments, please submit them to Digest@DignityAllianceMA.org.</i>
<i>Dignity Alliance Massachusetts is a broad-based coalition of organizations and individuals pursuing fundamental changes in the provision of long-term services, support, and care for older adults and persons with disabilities.</i> <i>Our guiding principle is the assurance of dignity for those receiving the services as well as for those providing them.</i> <i>The information presented in “The Dignity Digest” is obtained from publicly available sources and does not necessarily represent positions held by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts.</i> <i>Previous issues of The Tuesday Digest and The Dignity Digest are available at:</i> https://dignityalliancema.org/dignity-digest/ <i>For more information about Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, please visit www.DignityAllianceMA.org.</i>	