



The Dignity Digest

Issue # 256

October 28, 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

“As federal changes threaten to disrupt SNAP benefits, our commitment remains the same: to stand with the people we serve, strengthen our communities, and ensure every family has the resources to thrive.”

Department of Transitional Assistance Acting Commissioner Michael Cole, [Governor Healey Calls on President Trump to Continue SNAP Benefits](#) (Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll, October 24, 2025)

“The Gabriel House fire was a terrible tragedy. It’s on all of us to do everything we can to enhance the safety of all residents and staff at Assisted Living Residences across the state.”

[Governor Healey Announces Next Steps to Enhance Resident Safety in Assisted Living Residences](#) (Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll, October 23, 2025)

“Vaccines are one of science’s greatest triumphs. Getting vaccinated for flu and COVID-19 is a simple, safe, and effective way to protect ourselves, our families, and our communities.”

Public Health Commissioner Robbie Goldstein, MD, PhD., [Governor Healey Kicks Off Seasonal Vaccines Public Awareness Campaign](#) (Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll, October 17, 2025)

In Massachusetts, more than one million people are set to lose food benefits starting next week. The populations most directly impacted are children,

people with disabilities, and seniors. Children ages 0-17 make up 32 percent of SNAP recipients in Massachusetts, while people with disabilities make up 31 percent and seniors make up 26 percent.

[AG Campbell Demands Answers From Trump Administration On SNAP Funding Due To Lapse At End Of Month](#) (Office of Attorney General Andrea Campbell, October 24, 2025)

Massachusetts receives about \$240 million monthly for SNAP benefits.

[State seeking donations as it braces for lapse in federal food aid](#) (*State House News, October 24, 2025)

Satisfaction is notably lower for [Massachusetts] House [of Representative] staff and people with disabilities, and lower still for researchers and legislative aides.

[Mass. State House staff are unsatisfied, underpaid, and planning to leave, new survey shows](#) (*Boston Globe, October 27, 2025)

“Demand is up; food is down.”

John Sillars, who helps run the Second Harvest Food Bank, a regional agency that supplies food pantries across southern Louisiana, [Food Banks Brace for Overwhelming Demand as SNAP Cutoff Looms](#) (*New York Times, October 26, 2025)

“It means people will go hungry, and in particular, kids and seniors and rural communities.”

Andrea Williams, president of the Oregon Food Bank, [Food Banks Brace for Overwhelming Demand as SNAP Cutoff Looms](#) (*New York Times, October 26, 2025)

[E]vacuating the building presented unique challenges. “Challenges because of the mobility issues that we encounter from several of the residents. The senior residents, some of the residents had memory care issues.”

Joe Marsh, the public safety director for the city of Southgate, Michigan, [More than 80 senior citizens displaced after massive fire at Southgate assisted living facility](#) (WXYZ, October 25, 2025)

	<p>About <u>1 in 4</u> older adults across the globe experience social isolation, which can increase one’s risk for developing cardiovascular disease, diabetes, poor mental health, and other issues. Social isolation is distinct from loneliness in that it refers to the lack of relationships, social support, and direct interaction with people, while loneliness reflects the emotional outcomes of isolation.</p> <p><u>Social Isolation May Shorten Lives among Older People, Men, and Less Educated</u> (Boston University School of Public Health, October 24, 2025)</p> <p><i>“It’s not uncommon to see some patients who have 15 chronic health issues. We have more and more older patients, sicker patients, and complicated patients.”</i></p> <p>Dr. David Weinstock, a primary care physician and assistant professor at UMass Chan Medical School in Worcester, <u>Blue Cross plans to target doctors for overcharging. Physicians are furious.</u> (*Boston Globe, October 24, 2025)</p>
<p>Amici Curiae filed in the matter: <i>James M. Ryan v Mary Ann Morse Healthcare Corp.</i>, before the Massachusetts Supreme Court</p> <p>Dignity Alliance Massachusetts is one of seven organizations who have filed the <i>amici curiae</i>.</p>	<p><u>Amici Curiae filed in the matter: <i>James M. Ryan v Mary Ann Morse Healthcare Corp</i></u></p> <p>Summary of the matter at dispute: Assisted Living Residences (ALRs) abuse their bargaining power and violate state law in charging junk fees, including so-called “community fees.” The “community fee” charged by Defendant Mary Ann Morse Healthcare Corp. is a “junk fee” that preys on vulnerable consumers. It is not tied to the provision of specific services or benefits, does not reflect the costs of providing any specific kinds of services or benefits. It was imposed simply because Mary Ann Morse Healthcare Corp. could get away with extracting additional money from an especially vulnerable population at an especially vulnerable time. Since it is not a fee for the provision of the kinds of services authorized by the ALR statute, G. L. c. 19D, it falls within the scope of the Security Deposit statute, G. L. c. 186 § 15B. Accordingly, the Superior Court was 17 correct in holding that these fees violated the</p>

Security Deposit statute and ALR regulations, and awarding damages accordingly.

Older adults and individuals with disabilities seek ALRs when they need more support services than they can receive in an independent living setting. ALR admission often results from crisis, including worsening health or the death of a spouse or caretaker. People often choose to live in an ALR, rather than a nursing facility, to retain a certain level of independence and dignity when they cannot be supported at home. ALR residents deserve the full breadth of protection afforded to consumers under the Security Deposit statute and Massachusetts’s ALR regulations.

Organizations who have filed the *amici curiae*:

- AARP
- AARP Foundation
- Dignity Alliance Massachusetts
- The National Consumer Law Center
- Justice in Aging
- The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
- The Massachusetts Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorney

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Commentary Offered by DignityMA Participants



Richard T. Moore is Chair of the DignityMA Legislative Workgroup and a member of the Coordinating Committee. He is a former Massachusetts State Senator.

Don't Let Washington Gut Food Assistance for Our Most Vulnerable

By Richard T. Moore
October 27, 2025

In Massachusetts, we pride ourselves on being a commonwealth of compassion—where dignity, equity, and community are more than ideals. They are promises, and they echo the first such promise to Bay State residents issued by our first governor, John Winthrop, in his oft-quoted “City on a Hill,” sermon aboard the Puritan’s ship, *Arbella*.

But those promises are under threat.

Federal proposals to tighten work requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) could strip food assistance from tens of thousands of Americans. Among them, nearly one-third are older adults and people with disabilities—individuals who have spent lifetimes contributing to our communities and now face hunger as a policy choice.

This isn’t just a national issue. It’s a Massachusetts crisis.

Over 600,000 Bay Staters rely on SNAP to put food on the table. Nearly half are in households with seniors or individuals with disabilities. These are our neighbors in Worcester, our elders in Springfield, our caregivers in Lowell. They are veterans, retired teachers, and adults with chronic conditions who cannot simply “work more” to qualify for benefits.

The proposed changes would expand work requirements to adults aged 50–54, many of whom face age discrimination in hiring, limited mobility, or caregiving responsibilities. In Massachusetts, where the cost of living is among the highest in the nation, losing even modest SNAP support can mean choosing between groceries and medication.

And SNAP isn’t the only lifeline under threat.

Meals on Wheels, another cornerstone of senior nutrition, delivers over 30,000 meals per day across the Commonwealth. For thousands of homebound older adults, it’s not just food, it’s a daily wellness check, a moment of human connection, and a shield against isolation. Cuts to this program would deepen food insecurity and erode the safety net for those least able to advocate for themselves.

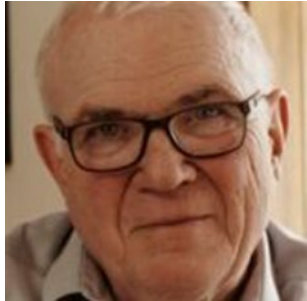
Let’s be clear: these programs are not handouts. They are investments in public health, economic stability, and moral leadership. Every dollar spent on SNAP generates \$1.50 in economic activity—benefiting farmers, grocers, and small businesses across the state. Meals on Wheels reduces hospitalizations and supports aging in place, saving taxpayer dollars in long-term care costs.

Punishing vulnerable populations under the guise of “fiscal responsibility” is not reform. It’s regression.

Massachusetts has long led the way in protecting its most vulnerable. We must do so again. I urge our congressional delegation to reject punitive SNAP restrictions and defend senior nutrition programs like Meals on Wheels. These are not just policy choices—they are reflections of our values. Congressman Jim McGovern has long been a champion of the SNAP program. His colleagues on both sides of the aisle need to listen to him.

Because in the end, how we treat those with the least says everything about who we are.

**Commentary Offered
by DignityMA
Participants**



James A. Lomastro, PhD, is a member of the Coordinating Committee for Dignity Alliance Massachusetts and a surveyor for CARF International. He writes frequently on issues concerning nursing homes, home- and community-based services, private equity, artificial and augmented intelligence, and caregiving. He had an extensive career in healthcare administration and academia.

**SNAP Crisis: When Food Security Becomes a Health Emergency:
Food as Medicine**

October 23, 2025

By James A. Lomastro, PhD

Governor Healey's warning that 1.1 million Massachusetts residents could lose SNAP benefits represents not just a hunger crisis but a looming public health catastrophe

As of March 2025, 262,222 people aged 60 or older and 309,121 people with disabilities receive SNAP in Massachusetts—over half a million of our most medically vulnerable neighbors. For these populations, adequate nutrition isn't optional; it's medicine.

Older adults managing diabetes, heart disease, and hypertension require consistent access to appropriate foods. People with disabilities often need specialized diets to manage their conditions. Sudden nutritional deprivation doesn't just cause hunger—it triggers immediate health crises: diabetic emergencies, cardiovascular events, medication complications, and disease exacerbation.

The average \$240 monthly SNAP benefit prevents thousands of emergency room visits and hospitalizations. Eliminating it will overwhelm our already-strained healthcare system with entirely preventable crises. As one geriatrician noted, we'll spend thousands treating emergencies that \$240 in groceries would have prevented.

If Congress does not end this manufactured crisis immediately, the state will need to plan on how to prevent a food crisis from becoming a health crisis. The healthcare consequences will be catastrophic and costly.

***It's Time to Shine a Light on Who's Influencing Long-Term Care
Policy in Massachusetts***

October 22, 2025

By James A. Lomastro, PhD

When families in Massachusetts seek help navigating the long-term care system—whether for an aging parent, a spouse with dementia, or a neighbor with disabilities—they deserve clear, unbiased information. Yet too often, the “guidance” they receive is shaped by hidden financial interests.

Many referral services that appear to offer free advice—like *A Place for Mom* or *Right at Home*—are actually paid by the providers they recommend. Meanwhile, academic centers and think tanks that shape policy debates may receive industry funding that is rarely disclosed. The result is a quiet erosion of public trust in a system that already asks families to make urgent, life-changing decisions under enormous stress.


At Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, we believe transparency is the foundation of consumer protection. That's why we have called on Attorney General Andrea Campbell to use her authority under **Chapter 93A, Section 2(c)** of the Massachusetts General Laws to adopt **clear disclosure regulations** for all entities—commercial, nonprofit, or academic—that influence long-term care choices or policy.

These rules would be simple and fair. Any organization providing referrals or policy advice about long-term care would have to disclose any financial relationships, sponsorships, or institutional affiliations that might bias their recommendations. Disclosure would be required across all media—websites, printed materials, public presentations, and personal consultations. Penalties for noncompliance would ensure that consumers receive honest, transparent information.

This isn't just about protecting families from deceptive marketing. It's about restoring confidence in the policymaking process itself. When public officials and legislators rely on research or policy recommendations, they should know whether the findings were underwritten by corporate or industry interests. Without transparency, even well-intentioned advocacy can skew priorities and weaken public accountability.

Massachusetts has long been a leader in consumer protection and elder justice. The Attorney General's office already enforces transparency in advertising, lending, and health care billing. Extending those principles to the long-term care information marketplace is a natural and necessary next step.

Families navigating aging and disability shouldn't have to guess whether the advice they're getting is impartial—or paid for. We can and should demand higher standards of honesty and disclosure from every organization shaping the long-term care landscape.

	<p>Transparency builds trust. Trust builds better care. Massachusetts should lead the nation in making that connection explicit.</p>
<p>Commentary Offered by DignityMA Participants</p>  <p>Frank Baskin is a resident of Lowell and works as a social worker. He chairs DignityMA's Behavioral Health Workgroup and is a member of the Coordinating Committee.</p> <p>This op-ed also was published in the Sentinel & Enterprise on October 25, 2025.</p>	<p><u>State headed for a perfect storm on elder care</u> The Sun October 25, 2025 By Frank Baskin</p> <p>This month, as the United Nations marks the International Day of Older Persons, we in Greater Lowell have good reason to reflect — and to act. Our region takes pride in the quality of life in our communities and its health-care services. Lowell General Hospital offers high quality acute care. But when it comes to long-term care, we are reaching a breaking point.</p> <p>A new report from Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, “Massachusetts at a Crossroads: Facing a Predictable Crisis,” (https://tinyurl.com/DignityCrossroads) warns that the commonwealth is heading into a demographic storm without an actionable plan. Over the next decade, the number of residents aged 85 and older will increase by 40%. These aren’t just numbers, they’re our parents, grandparents, partners, and neighbors. Yet, Massachusetts remains stuck in denial and delay. We are not ready!</p> <p>This isn’t just about a shortage of nursing home beds properly staffed with qualified workers. It’s a failure of imagination and leadership. Most older adults and people with disabilities want to remain in their homes and communities. More than 90% say so. Yet public dollars continue to flow into outdated institutional models that fail to offer privacy and ineffective protection from infectious diseases. It’s time to redirect those funds toward home- and community-based services that preserve independence and dignity.</p> <p>The gaps are especially stark outside Greater Boston. Greater Lowell communities face rising housing costs, underfunded programs, and a shortage of care workers. When a nursing home closes, residents are often relocated far from family. For low-income individuals relying on MassHealth, choices are even more limited. The message is clear: The current system wasn’t built for today’s older adults, and care is declining.</p> <p>South Korean protesters voice anger ahead of Trump visit</p> <p>We’ve known this was coming. Advocates and caregivers have sounded the alarm for years. What’s missing is coordinated, transparent, accountable action. The Dignity Alliance report</p>

	<p>offers a roadmap: Launch a public process to assess long-term care needs over the next five to 10 years. Reinvest in home care, adult day programs, accessible transportation, and workforce support — so people can age in place with dignity.</p> <p>We must also improve the facilities that remain. Large, shared-room nursing homes are relics. We can build smaller, homelike settings that protect privacy and honor each person. But this vision depends on solving the workforce crisis. Direct care workers — often women and immigrants — are underpaid and overworked. They deserve fair wages, benefits, and career paths. Dignity for those receiving care must include dignity for those providing it.</p> <p>There are glimmers of hope. The Marsters v. Healey settlement requires the state to help thousands of nursing home residents return to community living. The new Office of Aging and Independence, if restored to full Cabinet-level authority, could coordinate across agencies. But these efforts must be accelerated and fully funded — not buried in bureaucracy.</p> <p>In May, Gov. Maura Healey issued Executive Order No. 642, directing every Cabinet department to focus on “age-friendly” programs. Reports are due next month. But unless those plans include real funding and actionable steps, their words will ring hollow to those who urgently need affordable housing, transportation, health care, and the staff to deliver it.</p> <p>Red Sox bats sleepy again in 4-1 loss to the Tigers in Detroit</p> <p>Every family in our region will feel the impact of decisions made — or not made — in the next two years. We can prepare with care and planning, or we can face a crisis by ignoring the problem as the aging population continues to grow. This is not just a financial choice. It’s a moral one.</p> <p>Now is the time for elected officials, local leaders, and community members to demand urgent action: invest in home- and community-based services, support fair wages for care workers, and hold state leaders accountable to implement the Dignity Alliance plan. Our dignity — and our future — depend on it.</p>
<p>Remembering with Dignity</p> <p>To access the submission form scan</p>	<p><i>Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Launches “Remembering with Dignity,” a Digital Memorial to Honor Those who Died During the COVID-19 pandemic</i></p>



or click on:

<https://tinyurl.com/DignityRemembrance> or
<https://forms.gle/GbzP2H9RG1sWSzA3A>.

For more information or questions, contact:
Deborah W. Coogan
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"Remembering with Dignity"
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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.

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

	<p>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.</p>
<p>Healthy to 100: The Science of Social Connection SUBSCRIBE</p>	<p>Or Just Hang Out at the Gym. October 27, 2025</p> <p>True confession time: we're fairly regular gym goers, but find it a rather oppressive place. Ear buds in, eyes locked forward, we don't interact with many people at the gym, other than that one guy who insists on chatting with everyone he sees.</p> <p>Turns out, we're in the minority. According to a new poll of some 40 million gym-goers, 57% of active consumers cite social interaction as a significant reason they join a fitness community. Perhaps not surprisingly, there is some age differentiation in the data: members of Gen Z are almost twice as likely as Boomers to cite social interaction as a major motivating factor in joining a fitness community.</p> <p>And there is a major knock-on effect of increased social connection at the gym. Almost three-quarters of all respondents agreed that being part of a fitness community helps them stay motivated.</p> <p>It makes sense. Research has indeed shown that friendship is a powerful motivator for fitness – and those who are less social end up working out less. Perhaps it's time for us to pull out those earbuds after all.</p>
<p>Recruitment</p>	<p>See: Listings on MASterList.com's Job Board for all current listings</p>
<p>Guide to news items in this week's Dignity Digest</p>	<p>Assisted Living Residences Assisted living safety survey results on way to fire departments (*Salem News, October 27, 2025) More than 80 senior citizens displaced after massive fire at Southgate assisted living facility (WXYZ, October 25, 2025) Governor Healey Announces Next Steps to Enhance Resident Safety in Assisted Living Residences (Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll, October 23, 2025) JAMES M. RYAN vs. MARY ANN MORSE HEALTHCARE CORP. (Supreme Judicial Court for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts) BRIEF OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AS AMICUS CURIAE IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF-APPELLEE (Office of Attorney General Andrea Campbell)</p> <p>Health Care Blue Cross plans to target doctors for overcharging. Physicians are furious. (*Boston Globe, October 24, 2025)</p>

	<p><u>Governor Healey Kicks Off Seasonal Vaccines Public Awareness Campaign</u> (Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll, October 17, 2025)</p> <p>Social Isolation <u>Social Isolation May Shorten Lives among Older People, Men, and Less Educated</u> (Boston University School of Public Health, October 24, 2025)</p> <p>Homelessness <u>Is homelessness a problem that can be solved?</u> (No Small Endeavor, October 31, 2024)</p> <p>Federal Policy <u>Food Banks Brace for Overwhelming Demand as SNAP Cutoff Looms</u> (*New York Times, October 26, 2025) <u>Trump Approves Disaster Relief—But Just for States That Voted for Him</u> (The National Republic, October 26, 2025) <u>Food benefits set to expire for 41 million people as US shutdown continues</u> (The Guardian, October 26, 2025) <u>Governor Healey Calls on President Trump to Continue SNAP Benefits</u> (Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll, October 24, 2025) <u>AG Campbell Demands Answers From Trump Administration On SNAP Funding Due To Lapse At End Of Month</u> (Office of Attorney General Andrea Campbell, October 24, 2025) <u>State seeking donations as it braces for lapse in federal food aid</u> (*State House News, October 24, 2025) <u>An MIT professor criticized COVID-19 shots. His new role allows him to make recommendations about the vaccine.</u> (*Boston Globe, October 21, 2025)</p> <p>State House <u>Nearly half of Gov. Healey's cabinet has turned over as she heads into an election year</u> (WBUR, October 27, 2025) <u>Mass. State House staff are unsatisfied, underpaid, and planning to leave, new survey shows</u> (*Boston Globe, October 27, 2025)</p> <p>Public Sessions <u>Primary Care Task Force meeting</u> (Health Policy Commission, Tuesday, October 28, 2025, 10:00 a.m.) <u>Meeting</u> (Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities, Wednesday, October 29, 2025, 11:00 a.m.) <u>Virtual information session</u> (Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council, Wednesday, October 29, 2025, 4:00 p.m.) <u>Remote public hearing</u> (Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Friday, October 31, 2025, 10:00 a.m.)</p>
<p>Reports</p>	<p>Consumer Voice <u>Where Does All the Money Go?</u> Consumer Voice has released a new report, <u>Where Does All the Money Go?</u>, which documents the need for increased financial transparency and accountability for how nursing homes spend taxpayer dollars. The report investigates related party spending in New Jersey, where nursing homes paid nearly \$2 billion to</p>

	<p>companies they own and operate. The report takes a closer look at three for-profit nursing home chains in New Jersey that funneled over \$206 million, while care in these homes was substandard. The report features residents who live in these homes, describing how their day-to-day life is impacted by poor care. Key findings from the report include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially \$49.1 million in profits were hidden in related party rent and management fees alone. • These homes averaged 3.26 nursing hours per resident/day, compared to 4.67 hours for non-profit homes in New Jersey. • CMS star ratings for these chains were significantly lower than state averages. • Residents and families report dehydration, inadequate supplies, and fear of retaliation. <p>The report makes recommendations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The passage of legislation (S1948/A1872) requiring audited, consolidated cost reports. • Increased scrutiny of Medicare and Medicaid cost reports by federal and state governments. • Requiring nursing homes to document that related party transactions are reasonable and prudent. <p>Read the full report.</p>
<p>DignityMA Study Sessions</p> <p><i>Special Focus on Changes in Federal Policies, Programs, and Services</i></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The presenters are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>Recordings of Jim Roosevelt’s and Steve Schwartz’s presentations are available at https://dignityalliancema.org/videos/. Bob Blancato’s presentation is being rescheduled.</p>

<p>DignityMA Study Session</p>  <p>Bob Blancato, National Coordinator, Elder Justice Coalition</p>	<p><i>Agging Policy Update: What We Know, What We Don't Know, and What We Should Fear</i> Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 2:00 p.m. 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.</p>
<p>Events</p>	<p>1. Make Hunger History Tuesday, October 28, 2025, 12:00 p.m. State House Steps, Boston SNAP Funding Rally The Make Hunger History coalition holds a rally to urge state and federal officials to ensure November SNAP benefits are issued despite the ongoing federal shutdown. Advocates warn that more than 655,000 low-income Massachusetts households could lose access to food assistance starting Nov. 1 if federal funding lapses. Speakers from Project Bread, the Greater Boston Food Bank, and other coalition members will call on the Trump administration to release emergency USDA funds and, if federal funding lapses, for Massachusetts lawmakers to tap into the state's \$8 billion stabilization fund. The coalition says failure to act could force families to skip meals and overwhelm the state's emergency food network. October 28 12pm - RSVP</p>
<p>Webinars and Online Sessions</p>	<p>2. Core EHR Solutions Tuesday, October 28, 2025, 2:00 p.m. Expanding Revenue Beyond Medicaid: New Funding Strategies For I/DD Providers As Medicaid funding remains stagnant, behavioral health and I/DD providers must explore innovative ways to diversify revenue streams. This webinar, hosted by ANCOR, will uncover non-traditional funding opportunities that can enhance financial sustainability while staying true to your organization's mission. Drawing from real-world examples and decades of experience, this presentation will cover:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying viable alternative funding sources at the federal, state, and municipal levels Assessing alignment with your organization’s goals and services Navigating the steps to secure new revenue streams <p>3. Massachusetts Health and Hospital Association Thursday, October 30, 2025, 12:00 p.m. Following the Money: What Federal Medicaid Changes Mean for Massachusetts Hospitals. It will explore how recent federal changes, including from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, will affect the Health Safety Net and supplemental payment structures.</p>
<p>Previously posted webinars and online sessions</p>	<p>Previously posted webinars and online sessions can be viewed at: https://dignityalliancema.org/webinars-and-online-sessions/</p>
<p>Assisted Living Residences</p>	<p>4. *Salem News October 27, 2025 Assisted living safety survey results on way to fire departments By Colin A. Young State Response to Fatal Fire Following a fire that killed ten residents at the Gabriel House in Fall River, Massachusetts surveyed all 272 assisted living residences (ALRs) in the state. Governor Maura Healey announced the survey results are being sent to local fire departments, which enforce the state fire code. Survey Findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong Preparedness: The "vast majority" of ALRs reported strong preparedness measures. Corrective Actions: 36 facilities (13%) showed weaknesses in drills, mutual aid, or emergency protocols. They must submit a corrective action plan within 45 days and will face a targeted state review. Best Practices: 189 facilities (69%) identified at least one area where they did not meet recommended (but not required) <i>best practices</i>, such as installing kitchen hood extinguishers or fire-rated walls. <p>New Safety Requirements The Executive Office of Aging & Independence will now require all assisted living residences to get an annual safety sign-off from their local municipal fire department.</p> <p>5. WXYZ October 25, 2025 More than 80 senior citizens displaced after massive fire at Southgate assisted living facility By Tiarra Braddock Here is a summary of the selected text: Massive Fire Displaces Seniors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What: A massive fire broke out at the American House assisted living facility. Where: Southgate, Michigan (on Allen Road).

- **When:** Started around 10 p.m. on Friday, October 24, 2025.
- **Impact:** More than 80 senior citizens were displaced. All residents and staff were accounted for without severe injuries.

Evacuation Challenges

- Officials reported challenges due to residents' mobility and memory care issues.
- Residents, like Joyce Richardson, evacuated with minimal belongings, some only in nightgowns and bathrobes without shoes.
- Body camera footage showed police evacuating the building as smoke filled the air.
- Community volunteers and even a retired police officer assisted in transporting residents to a temporary relocation center.

Investigation

- The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

6. Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll

October 23, 2025

[Governor Healey Announces Next Steps to Enhance Resident Safety in Assisted Living Residences](#)

Governor Healey's Assisted Living Residence (ALR) Safety Initiative

Following the tragic Gabriel House fire in Fall River, Governor Maura Healey announced additional steps to enhance resident safety in Massachusetts Assisted Living Residences (ALRs), based on the results of a mandatory Fire and Life Safety Self-Assessment Survey.

Fire and Life Safety Survey Results

All **272** ALRs in Massachusetts completed the self-assessment survey (100% response rate). The key findings, reviewed by the Executive Office of Aging & Independence (AGE) and the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS), were:

- **Preparedness Measures:** Approximately **13% (36 residences)** indicated opportunities to strengthen fire drills, mutual aid plans, or emergency coordination protocols.
- **Building Safety Best Practices:** **69% (189 residences)** self-identified at least one area to align with best practices for fire or building safety, such as installing fire pumps, kitchen hood extinguishers, or fire-rated walls.
 - *Note:* These building features are **recommended but not required**, as ALRs are classified as residential buildings and are not subject to the same codes as nursing homes or hospitals. The reported opportunities do not indicate current unsafety or code non-compliance.

Next Steps and Action Plan

AGE and EOPSS are launching a joint effort focused on strengthening compliance and municipal coordination:

- **Municipal Coordination:** EOPSS will distribute the survey results, particularly those concerning the **189 ALRs** that identified building safety opportunities, to all local fire departments (Authorities Having Jurisdiction - AHJs).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountability: AGE will introduce a new Compliance Verification Form requiring ALRs to secure annual sign-off from their municipal fire department. These forms will be reviewed by AGE during initial certification and recertification visits. • Corrective Actions: The 36 ALRs needing improvement on preparedness measures must submit a Corrective Action Plan within 45 days and will receive targeted reviews of their training logs and protocols during compliance visits. <p>7. Supreme Judicial Court for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts <u>JAMES M. RYAN vs. MARY ANN MORSE HEALTHCARE CORP.</u> At issue is the charging of community fees by the operator of an assisted living residence. The case will be presented to the Court on Wednesday, November 5, 2025.</p> <p>8. Office of Attorney General Andrea Campbell <u>BRIEF OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AS AMICUS CURIAE IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF-APPELLEE</u></p>
<p>Health Care</p>	<p>9. *Boston Globe October 24, 2025 <u>Blue Cross plans to target doctors for overcharging. Physicians are furious.</u> By Jonathan Saltzman Here is a summary of the selected text: Blue Cross Targets Physician Overbilling Blue Cross is launching a new program to address rising healthcare costs by targeting physicians it suspects of overbilling. The insurer reports a 30% increase in office visit costs since 2021, which links to a surge in billing at the two highest complexity levels (Levels 4 and 5).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Details: Blue Cross will use a third-party company, Cotiviti, to review claims from providers who frequently bill at Levels 4 and 5. • Action: If the insurer determines a medical case does not support the high-level code, it will "edit the claim" and pay for the next level down. • Justification: The insurer cited significant financial losses (\$400 million in 2024) and noted that AI-powered transcription tools might be contributing to incorrect, higher-level coding. • Scope: Blue Cross estimates the program will affect no more than 2% of its primary care physicians and 4% of specialists. <p>Doctors Oppose the Plan Physicians, particularly in primary care, have strongly denounced the program, stating they feel "found guilty before having a chance to prove their innocence."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient Complexity: Doctors argue that Level 5 billing is justified because patients are increasingly older and sicker, often presenting with 15 or more chronic health issues that require 40-45 minutes per case.

- **Administrative Burden:** Doctors will only learn of payment cuts after receiving them. While Blue Cross states they can appeal, physicians argue this adds to administrative burdens and burnout.
- **Intimidation:** Some doctors labeled the program "intimidation" and "like organized crime," vowing to fight payment reductions that could cost them thousands annually.
- **Medical Society:** The Massachusetts Medical Society and other physician groups have expressed concern and urged Blue Cross to "rescind this program immediately."

Context and Patient Impact

This dispute highlights the ongoing battle over who bears the brunt of controlling healthcare costs.

- **Patient Concerns:** The situation raises fears that patients may get less time with doctors, or that physicians might avoid complex cases. However, doctors are contractually prohibited from passing the costs on to patients.
- **Industry Trend:** Other major insurers, like Cigna and Aetna, have launched similar programs, also provoking backlash from doctors.
- **Cost Savings:** Primary care doctors argue their work saves the system money by preventing far more expensive emergency room visits and hospitalizations.

10. Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll

October 17, 2025

[Governor Healey Kicks Off Seasonal Vaccines Public Awareness Campaign](#)

Governor urges residents to get flu and COVID vaccines to keep themselves and others healthy; Campaign follows Governor's actions to ensure vaccines are accessible and affordable in Massachusetts

State Actions to Protect Vaccine Access

- **Insurance Coverage:** Directed the Division of Insurance (DOI) and DPH to require insurance carriers in Massachusetts to continue covering DPH-recommended vaccines.
- **Pharmacy Access:** The DPH Commissioner issued a standing order allowing pharmacies to keep providing COVID-19 vaccines to residents aged five and older.
- **Guidelines:** DPH issued evidence-based guidelines for the COVID-19 vaccine.
- **Collaboration:** Massachusetts is working with other states to safeguard public health.

Public Awareness Campaign

- **Languages:** Runs in six languages.
- **Platforms:** Includes billboards, buses, digital/social media, video streaming, and store placements.
- **Target Audience:** Focuses on those at higher risk: people over 65, individuals with underlying health conditions, and pregnant people/parents of children under two.
- **Resource:** Directs people to mass.gov/SeasonalVaccines.

Key Recommendations

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPH Recommendation: Everyone over six months old should receive the flu and COVID-19 vaccines. • Cost & Availability: Vaccines are covered by insurance, free, and available at doctors' offices, community health centers, pharmacies, and local health departments. • Pediatrics: Pediatricians and community health centers are the best options for children (6 months - 18 years).
Social Isolation	<p>11. Boston University School of Public Health October 24, 2025 <u>Social Isolation May Shorten Lives among Older People, Men, and Less Educated</u> By Jillian McKoy <u>New study findings</u> reveal a 205-day difference in total life span among individuals who were most burdened by social isolation, underscoring the need for interventions that foster social connections.</p> <p>Social Isolation Linked to Shorter Lifespans A study on older adults in Japan found that social isolation is linked to earlier deaths, potentially shortening lifespans by an average of 70 days and up to 205 days for the most burdened individuals.</p> <p>Key Findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most Affected Groups: The link between social isolation and earlier death was strongest among: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Individuals in their late 70s or older ○ Men ○ People with nine or fewer years of formal education • High-Income/Low-Education Paradox: The association was even stronger for individuals with lower education but <i>higher</i> income, particularly women. Lead author Koichiro Shiba speculates this group may lack protective resources or use negative coping strategies. • Disparity Reduction: Interventions addressing social isolation could reduce education and income-related health disparities in survival time by an average of 37 days. • Prevalence: About 1 in 4 older adults worldwide experience social isolation (a lack of social connections, distinct from the emotion of loneliness). <p>Study & Solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methodology: The study, led by SPH researcher Koichiro Shiba, analyzed data from 20,000 older adults in Japan over nine years (2010-2022) using machine learning. • Intervention Potential: Researchers suggest that interventions, such as creating accessible community gathering places ("third places"), could mitigate social isolation and reduce health disparities.
Homelessness	<p>12. No Small Endeavor October 31, 2024 <u>Is homelessness a problem that can be solved?</u> By Philip Mangano</p>

	<p>Historically, efforts made to address homelessness in the US have taken a symptom-management approach, focusing on soup kitchens, clothing drives, and medical programs. But these well-intentioned efforts often have a paradoxical effect: over time, they end up serving more and more homeless people, rather than reducing the number of those unhoused.</p> <p>In this episode, Philip Mangano describes his longtime effort to approach homelessness in a new way. "I took the abolitionist frame," he says of his renowned Housing-First Initiative. "People were homeless, so the antidote must be a place to live."</p>
<p>Federal Policy</p>	<p>13. *New York Times October 26, 2025 <u>Food Banks Brace for Overwhelming Demand as SNAP Cutoff Looms</u> By Chris Hippensteel Here is a summary of the selected text: Looming SNAP Cuts Threaten Food Security A nearly month-long federal government shutdown is set to halt funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) at the beginning of November, according to the Department of Agriculture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This cutoff will affect roughly 42 million Americans who rely on SNAP. • The Trump administration has stated it will not use contingency funds to continue payments. • This is expected to cause a massive surge in demand at local food banks, which leaders say they cannot meet. <p>Food Banks Already at Capacity The nation's charitable food system was already struggling before the shutdown due to increased need and fewer resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rising food prices (inflation) since the pandemic have driven more people to food banks. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Visits are up 50% in two years in Oregon and have doubled in the Washington D.C. area since before the pandemic. • Previous federal aid cuts earlier in the year had already reduced the amount of food available to these organizations. • Food bank directors cite a statistic that for every nine meals provided by federal assistance, food pantries can only provide one. <p>State and Local Impact The anticipated crisis is expected to be widespread, with some areas and states bracing for severe consequences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-hunger leaders warn that the system will break, and people will go hungry, particularly children, seniors, and rural communities. • Some states, like Virginia, California, and Louisiana, are taking emergency measures or planning to use reserve funds to support food banks and cover payments. • Areas with many federal workers, who are already furloughed without pay, are seeing high demand. A distribution site in Beltsville, Md., ran out of food in 45 minutes, turning away many people. <p>14. The National Republic October 26, 2025</p>

[Trump Approves Disaster Relief—But Just for States That Voted for Him](#)

By Ellie Quinlan Houghtaling

Politicized Disaster Relief

- The Trump administration approved FEMA disaster aid for states he won in 2024 (Alaska, Nebraska, North Dakota) while denying requests from states that voted Democratic (Vermont, Illinois, Maryland).
- In his announcements, Trump highlighted that he had “won BIG” in the states receiving aid.
- Maryland Governor Wes Moore accused the president of having “politicized disaster relief.”

15. The Guardian

October 26, 2025

[Food benefits set to expire for 41 million people as US shutdown continues](#)

By Reuters and Guardian staff

Department of Agriculture says no benefits will be issued in November and it would not draw on emergency reserves

USDA to Halt November Food Benefits Amid Shutdown

- **Impact:** The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that food benefits for its social assistance program, which serves over 41 million people, will not be issued in November.
- **Reason:** The decision is a result of the ongoing federal government shutdown, which was in its 25th day at the time of the announcement. The USDA stated, “the well has run dry.”
- **Dependency:** In some states, such as New Mexico, as many as 21% of residents depend on the program.

Political Context and Criticism

- **Funding Impasse:** Republicans and Democrats in Congress remain deadlocked over how to fund and reopen the government.
- **Emergency Reserves:** The announcement followed a request from over 200 House Democrats for the USDA to use emergency reserves. However, a memo indicated the department would not draw on these reserves.
- **Administration Criticized:** The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities accused the Trump administration of failing to act sooner and suggested it “may choose not to use” the funds “in an effort to gain political advantage” and pressure Senate Democrats.

State-Level Response

- **Emergency Declarations:** In anticipation of the benefits halting, the governors of Louisiana and Virginia declared states of emergency to make funds available for hunger relief.

16. Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll

October 24, 2025

[Governor Healey Calls on President Trump to Continue SNAP Benefits](#)

1 million+ Massachusetts residents to miss SNAP payments in November due to Trump’s decision; 150,000+ Massachusetts residents to see reduced or cancelled benefits due to Trump and Congressional Republicans’ Big Beautiful Bill

Governor Healey Condemns Federal SNAP Cuts

Governor Maura Healey is calling on President Donald Trump to reverse his "unprecedented decision" to end Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits starting November 1st. She states that Trump is the only president in history to cut off these benefits, accusing him of forcing millions—including children, seniors, and people with disabilities—into hunger and harming local farmers and businesses.

Impact on Massachusetts Residents

- **Benefit Termination:** Over 1.1 million Massachusetts residents who rely on SNAP will not receive benefits beginning November 1st.
- **New OBBBA Restrictions:** On the same day, new restrictions from the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA)" will take effect, resulting in over 150,000 residents having their benefits reduced or eliminated.
- **Specific OBBBA Impacts:**
 - **99,000 residents** (including working parents, homeless individuals, veterans, and older adults) will face more onerous work requirements.
 - **45,000 people** may see reduced benefits due to increased paperwork for utility allowances.
 - **9,500 immigrants** (including refugees and asylees) will lose their eligibility entirely.

State and Partner Response

- **State Action:** The Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) is notifying all recipients of the changes and working to help them meet the new requirements.
- **Call for Public Support:** Governor Healey urges those with the means to support local food banks and organizations like the United Way.
- **United Way Partnership:** The 13 United Ways across Massachusetts are partnering with the Governor's administration to launch the "United Response Fund" to mitigate the impacts of the federal cuts.
- **Food Source Hotline:** Residents facing immediate hunger can call Project Bread's Food Source Hotline (1-800-645-8333) for information on local resources.
- **Unaffected Programs:** State-funded programs like WIC, school meals, HIP, TAFDC, and EAEDC are not impacted.

Criticism from State Leaders

- **Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll:** Called the decision "appalling" and urged President Trump to reopen the government.
- **House Speaker Ronald Mariano & Senate President Karen Spilka:** Blamed President Trump and Congressional Republicans for inflicting "purposeful cruelty" and noted that the state cannot replace the federally-funded SNAP benefits.
- **Other Officials:** Leaders from Health and Human Services, Education, and Energy and Environmental Affairs, along with the State Treasurer, condemned the decision, highlighting the devastating impact on public health, children, and the local agricultural economy.

17. Office of Attorney General Andrea Campbell

October 24, 2025

[AG Campbell Demands Answers From Trump Administration On SNAP Funding Due To Lapse At End Of Month](#)

AGs Demand Action on SNAP Funding

- Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell and 22 other attorneys general sent a letter to the USDA Secretary demanding action regarding a potential lapse in SNAP (food assistance) funding due to the federal government shutdown.
- On October 10, 2025, the USDA directed states to "hold their November issuance files," preventing the processing of SNAP benefits for November.
- The attorneys general argue this directive lacks legal authority and that the USDA should use its available contingency reserve funds (potentially \$6 billion) or other funds to continue benefits.

Impact of Potential Shutdown

- The directive could cause "grave harm" to 42 million Americans, including children, seniors, and veterans.
- In Massachusetts, over one million residents are set to lose food benefits, including children (32% of recipients), people with disabilities (31%), and seniors (26%).

Key Questions for USDA

The letter demands answers by October 27, 2025, including:

- Whether USDA has contingency funds and, if so, how much.
- If other sources of funds are available.
- Whether USDA intends to use these funds, even for reduced benefits, and what the plan is.
- Why the USDA directed states to "hold" files rather than issue reduced benefits.
- Whether the directive should be treated as a "suspension" or "cancellation" of benefits.

18. *State House News

October 24, 2025

[State seeking donations as it braces for lapse in federal food aid](#)

By Alison Kuznitz and Sam Drysdale

SNAP Benefits to Lapse Amid Federal Shutdown

- Due to the ongoing federal government shutdown (which began Oct. 1, 2025), **1 million Massachusetts residents** are expected to lose their SNAP (food assistance) benefits starting November 1.
- Those affected include **32% children, 31% people with disabilities, and 26% seniors**.
- Governor Maura Healey stated that the state **cannot "backfill"** the \$240 million in monthly federal funds.
- In response, the state and United Way have launched the **"United Respond Fund"** to raise private donations for food banks and anti-hunger organizations.
- Massachusetts Democrats, including Gov. Healey and Sen. Ed Markey, blame President Trump and congressional Republicans for the lapse, urging them to release USDA contingency funds.

Republicans blame the "Democrat shutdown," stating it is a political fight over healthcare subsidies.

19. *Boston Globe

October 21, 2025

[An MIT professor criticized COVID-19 shots. His new role allows him to make recommendations about the vaccine.](#)

By Brooke Hauser

Here is a summary of the selected text.

Levi's New Role and Philosophy

- Retsef Levi, an MIT professor specializing in risk analysis, has been appointed to the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and leads its COVID-19 subgroup.
- Described as welcoming conflict, he is in a key position to "rebuild... or shatter" waning public trust in public health.
- Levi states his philosophy is to find the "nuanced science-driven 'middle,'" rejecting what he calls the "two religions" that either all vaccines are good for everyone or no vaccines are.
- He aims to use his data science background to evaluate the specific risks and benefits of each vaccine for different populations.

Controversy and Criticism

- Levi's appointment is controversial, as critics note his data science and military intelligence background lacks clinical expertise in immunization.
- Many in public health fear he has an "anti-vaccine bias," pointing to his previous statement calling mRNA COVID-19 vaccines "the most failing medical product in the history of medical products."
- Critics, including leading vaccine expert Paul Offit, warn Levi is "sowing further confusion" and has the "capacity to make a terrible recommendation for public health."
- On campus, he has a reputation as an "anti-vaxxer" and for "antagonizing" pro-Palestinian students.

Political Context and Impact

- Levi was appointed by Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who "purged" the previous 17-member committee and also appointed Robert Malone, a figure known for spreading vaccine falsehoods.
- Defenders, like MIT colleague Yossi Sheffi, argue Levi's data science skills are ideal for *assessing* vaccine safety, which is the committee's primary role.
- The ACIP recently backed away from a universal COVID-19 vaccine recommendation, instead advising that vaccination be determined by "individual decision-making" with healthcare providers.
- Supporters view this change as a victory for "medical freedom," while opponents see it as a loss for public health that is causing widespread confusion.

Personal Background

- Levi, a former major in the Israeli Defense Forces intelligence corps, describes himself as a "black sheep" who "do[es] not fit boxes."

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporters describe him as a family man willing to "speak truth to power," while acknowledging he is "very polarizing." • Levi claims he was not anti-vaccine until 2021, when the departure of two top FDA vaccine regulators concerned him, which he compares to a pilot seeing a "blinking bulb" on a plane before takeoff.
<p>State House</p>	<p>20. WBUR October 27, 2025 Nearly half of Gov. Healey's cabinet has turned over as she heads into an election year By Chris Van Buskirk Here is a summary of the selected text: Healey Cabinet Sees Significant Turnover Governor Maura Healey's administration has experienced a high rate of turnover, with five of her 11 cabinet-level secretaries announcing their departures in the last six months. This comes as the first-term governor heads toward a 2026 re-election campaign.</p> <p>Recent Departures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development: Yvonne Hao left in April and was succeeded by Eric Paley. • Health and Human Services: Kate Walsh, who managed the Steward Health Care crisis, stepped down in July, replaced by Dr. Kiame Mahaniah. • Veterans Services: Jon Santiago announced plans to step down around Veterans Day to return to health care. • Public Safety and Security: Terrence Reidy, a holdover from the Baker administration, retired last month. • Transportation: Monica Tibbits-Nutt stepped down this month, marking the second departure from this role under Healey. <p>Context and Perspectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor Healey's View: Healey described the turnover as "normal" compared to past administrations, highlighting the demanding nature of the "really hard jobs." • Expert Analysis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Political scientist Erin O'Brien noted the high number of departures in a short time raises "reasonable questions" about internal dynamics but stated it is unlikely to impact Healey's reelection, as most voters are unfamiliar with cabinet secretaries. ○ Former transportation secretary Jim Aloisi called the positions "grueling jobs" where burnout is common, suggesting it's a natural point for secretaries to "move on." • Historical Comparison: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Former Gov. Deval Patrick also saw significant turnover, losing at least six secretaries in his first term. ○ Former Gov. Charlie Baker had a more stable cabinet but still lost at least five secretaries during his first term. <p>21. *Boston Globe October 27, 2025</p>

[Mass. State House staff are unsatisfied, underpaid, and planning to leave, new survey shows](#)

By Samantha J. Gross

Staff Goals for Unionization

Beacon Hill staff are seeking the right to unionize to gain a "seat at the table" in determining their employment policies. While pay is a central issue, staffers are also focused on:

- Health care coverage
- Cost-of-living increases
- Diverse hiring and staff retention
- A workplace free from discrimination and harassment

Legislative Hurdles and Leadership Opposition

A new bill would classify legislative employees as public employees, granting them the collective bargaining rights already held by executive and judicial branch staff.

- **Senate Opposition:** Senate President Karen Spilka maintains her opposition, stating the Senate is not structured for a "traditional employer-union relationship." Officials also raise concerns that contracts would need renegotiation every session and that unionization might require rewriting ethics and campaign finance laws, as staff often work political jobs.
- **House Opposition:** House Speaker Ron Mariano also declined to express support, noting that he "has provided raises for House staff on multiple occasions."

Key Survey Findings

A staff survey found pay is a major issue, with an average salary of about \$64,000.

- **Pay Disparity:** Senate staff are paid \$9,000 more on average than House staff.
- **Low Satisfaction:** Satisfaction is notably lower for House staff, people with disabilities, researchers, and legislative aides.
- **Other Frustrations:** Staff cited a lack of parking or transportation reimbursement and chaotic legislative processes caused by tension between the House and Senate, leading to "double duty" without equal pay.
- **Retention:** Despite frustrations, nearly 80% of staff said they would consider staying in their roles longer if leaders addressed their main concerns.

Staff Recommendations

The survey offers several recommendations to leadership:

- Pass the bill allowing staff the right to collectively bargain.
- Conduct a pay study to align salaries with other public sector jobs.
- Implement an annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA).
- Offer the "TransitMatch" transportation reimbursement program available to other state employees.
- Improve role-specific training and time-off policies.
- A former aide noted a union would also improve working conditions by allowing staff to hold members accountable for behavior like sexual harassment.

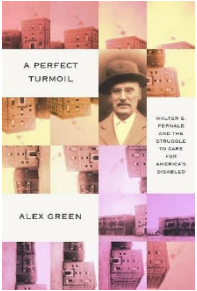
<p>Public Sessions</p>	<p>22. Health Policy Commission Tuesday, October 28, 2025, 10:00 a.m. Primary Care Task Force meeting Agenda includes discussion on payment models to increase public and private reimbursement for primary care services. Agenda & Access</p> <p>23. Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities Wednesday, October 29, 2025, 11:00 a.m. Meeting Discuss feedback to its fiscal year 2025 annual report. Zoom Registration</p> <p>24. Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council Wednesday, October 29, 2025, 4:00 p.m. Virtual information session Supporting people with disabilities at work. Register</p> <p>25. Executive Office of Health and Human Services Friday, October 31, 2025, 10:00 a.m. Remote public hearing Emergency amendments dealing with standard payments to nursing facilities. The updated regulations come with an annual fiscal impact of \$105.8 million. The changes involve adjusting rates to a base year of 2023, applying a cost adjustment factor and removing certain quality improvement adjustments. Another provision, based on a policy in the fiscal 2026 budget, establishes supplemental payments for qualified nursing facilities on Martha's Vineyard. More Info and Access</p>
<p><i>A Raise for Mom: Campaign to Increase the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA)</i></p>	<p><i>The Campaign to Increase the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA)</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>

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.

**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.*

Books by DignityMA Participants



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.

[A Perfect Turmoil: Walter E. Fernald and the Struggle to Care for America's Disabled](#)

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 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, *A Perfect Turmoil* 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.

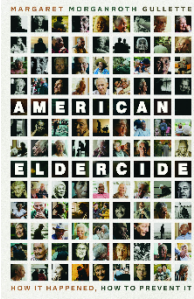
In this landmark work, Alex Green has drawn upon extensive, unexamined archives to unearth the hidden story of one of America's largely forgotten, but most complex, conflicted, and significant figures.

[Buy the book here](#)

Books by DignityMA Participants

[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



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 *Agewise*, *Aged by Culture*, and *Ending Ageism, or How Not to Shoot Old People*. Her writing has appeared in publications such as the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Guardian*, *Atlantic*, *Nation*, and the *Boston Globe*. She is a resident scholar at the Women's Studies Research Center, Brandeis, and lives in Newton, Massachusetts.

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 *American Eldercide*, 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

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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 *The Dignity Digest* 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 dickmoore1943@gmail.com .	
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	

	<p>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</p>
Nursing Home Closures	<p>List of Nursing Home Closures in Massachusetts Since July 2021: https://dignityalliancema.org/2025/04/07/nursing-home-closures-since-july-2021/</p>
Determination of Need Projects	<p>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</p>
List of Special Focus Facilities	<p>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?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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://somersetridge rehab.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)
<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/>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.nextstephc.com/westnewton Nursing home inspect information: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/homes/h-225324/ <p>No longer operating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Dennis Healthcare, South Dennis https://tinyurl.com/SpecialFocusFacilityProgram 																																																
<p><i>Nursing Home Inspect</i></p>	<p>ProPublica Nursing Home Inspect Data updated October 15, 2025</p> <p>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 (July 1, 2022 through September 30, 2025. Massachusetts listing: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/state/MA</p> <p>Deficiencies By Severity in Massachusetts (What do the severity ratings mean?)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Deficiency Tag</th> <th># Deficiencies</th> <th># Reports</th> <th>MA facilities cited</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>257</td> <td>187</td> <td>Tag B</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C</td> <td>77</td> <td>63</td> <td>Tag C</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D</td> <td>5,993</td> <td>1,193</td> <td>Tag D</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>1,872</td> <td>630</td> <td>Tag E</td> </tr> <tr> <td>F</td> <td>446</td> <td>226</td> <td>Tag F</td> </tr> <tr> <td>G</td> <td>420</td> <td>278</td> <td>Tag G</td> </tr> <tr> <td>H</td> <td>54</td> <td>30</td> <td>Tag H</td> </tr> <tr> <td>I</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>Tag I</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J</td> <td>64</td> <td>31</td> <td>Tag J</td> </tr> <tr> <td>K</td> <td>30</td> <td>9</td> <td>Tag K</td> </tr> <tr> <td>L</td> <td>7</td> <td>2</td> <td>Tag L</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Updated October 15, 2025</p>	Deficiency Tag	# Deficiencies	# Reports	MA facilities cited	B	257	187	Tag B	C	77	63	Tag C	D	5,993	1,193	Tag D	E	1,872	630	Tag E	F	446	226	Tag F	G	420	278	Tag G	H	54	30	Tag H	I	2	1	Tag I	J	64	31	Tag J	K	30	9	Tag K	L	7	2	Tag L
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<p><i>Nursing Home Compare</i></p>	<p>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</p>																																																

	<p>better understanding of certain staffing information and concerns at facilities. This information will be posted for each facility and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>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</p>																						
Data on Ownership of Nursing Homes	<p>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.</p>																						
DignityMA Call Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<p>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</p>																						
<p>Participation opportunities with Dignity Alliance Massachusetts</p> <p>Most workgroups meet bi-weekly via Zoom.</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Workgroup</th> <th>Workgroup lead</th> <th>Email</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="2">General Membership</td> <td>Bill Henning</td> <td>bhenning@bostoncil.org</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paul Lanzikos</td> <td>paul.lanzikos@gmail.com</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assisted Living</td> <td>John Ford</td> <td>jford@njc-ma.org</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Behavioral Health</td> <td>Frank Baskin</td> <td>baskinfrank19@gmail.com</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Communications</td> <td>Lachlan Forrow</td> <td>lforrow@bidmc.harvard.edu</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Facilities (Nursing homes and rest homes)</td> <td>Jim Lomastro</td> <td>jimlomastro@comcast.net</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Workgroup	Workgroup lead	Email	General Membership	Bill Henning	bhenning@bostoncil.org	Paul Lanzikos	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	jimlomastro@comcast.net		
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Interest Groups meet periodically (monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly). Please contact group leaders for more information.	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> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frank Baskin • James Lomastro • Lindsay Mitnik • Richard Moore • Liane Zeitz 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 The Dignity Digest or have questions or comments, please submit them to Digest@DignityAllianceMA.org.</i>		
<p><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></p> <p><i>Our guiding principle is the assurance of dignity for those receiving the services as well as for those providing them.</i></p> <p><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></p>			

Previous issues of *The Tuesday Digest* and *The Dignity Digest* are available at:

<https://dignityalliancema.org/dignity-digest/>

For more information about Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, please visit www.DignityAllianceMA.org.