



The Dignity Digest

Issue # 303

October 6, 2026

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.

Reflection

Celebrating and Defending Resident Rights

October marks National Residents' Rights Month—an annual observance dedicated to honoring the individuals who live in nursing homes, rest homes, assisted living residences, and other long-term care settings, while fiercely reaffirming their fundamental human, civil, and legal rights.

For advocates, policymakers, community members, and residents alike, this month serves as both a celebration of community and a call to action. True quality of life in any care setting cannot be measured solely by medical charts or physical amenities; it is defined by autonomy, respect, and the unfettered ability of residents to direct their own lives. Every resident retains their inherent dignity, their right to privacy, their right to make independent choices, and their right to be free from chemical or physical restraints.

As we often are reminded by the foundational principles of the disability and elder justice movements, rights are not privileges granted by institutions—they are inherent guarantees that must be protected, exercised, and defended.

Throughout this month, let us:

- **Honor** the resilience, wisdom, and lived experiences of residents across Massachusetts.
- **Support** the families, ombudsmen, and direct-care workers who stand as vital allies in upholding high standards of care.
- **Advocate** tirelessly for systemic reforms, transparency, and accountability so that every long-term care facility honors the full humanity of those who call it home.

	Thank you for being part of a movement that ensures every resident is seen, heard, and valued.
Guide to news items in this week's <i>Dignity Digest</i>	Nursing Homes • <u>Nursing home oversight lags, putting residents at risk</u> (Association of Health Care Journalists, October 2, 2026) • <u>States look beyond their borders to keep problematic nursing home operators out</u> (McKnights Long-Term Care News, October 2, 2026) • <u>Globe Spotlight: Out-of-state operators drained Mass. nursing homes while care quality dropped</u> (New England Public Media, October 2, 2026) Marsters Settlement • <i>Bringing People Home: A Commitment from the Commonwealth</i> (Center for Public Representation, September 28, 2026) Office of Attorney General Andrea Campbell • <u>AG Campbell Secures \$1.25 Million Settlement With Brockton Adult Foster Care Provider For Failing To Comply With Key Regulatory Requirements</u> (Office of Attorney General Andrea Campbell, September 28, 2026) Federal Policy • <u>"One Big Beautiful Bill" Act (OB3): Key Health Care Provisions and Impacts in Massachusetts (Updated October 2026)</u> (Blue Cross Foundation, October 1, 2026) From Around the Country • <u>Ensign Group Faces Growing Investor Investigations</u> (STL News, September 26, 2026)
Quotes	<i>"It's depressing and scandalous."</i> Senator Patricia Jehlen (Somerville-D), <u>'Depressing and scandalous': Lawmakers want Healey administration to explain lax nursing home oversight</u> (Boston Globe, October 1, 2026) <i>"We are providing DPH and the regulators all sorts of tools to take care of these problems that are identified, yet we still have a sense of a lack of urgency in implementing them."</i> Representative Thomas Stanley (Waltham-D), <u>'Depressing and scandalous': Lawmakers want Healey administration to explain lax nursing home oversight</u> (Boston Globe, October 1, 2026)

“We have predatory providers who are fleecing the public purse and providing unacceptable care to the residents living in their facilities.”

Senator Julian Cyr (Truro-D), [‘Depressing and scandalous’: Lawmakers want Healey administration to explain lax nursing home oversight](#) (*Boston Globe*, October 1, 2026)

“The banning of private equity alone is not going to solve the issue itself. If it’s not private equity, are we clearly looking at these owners who are using these acquisitions to extract more money?”

Representative Marjorie Decker (Cambridge-D), [‘Depressing and scandalous’: Lawmakers want Healey administration to explain lax nursing home oversight](#) (*Boston Globe*, October 1, 2026)

Meanwhile, state officials have approved several acquisitions by RegalCare, a New Jersey-based nursing home chain. Just last week, its owner entered into a [settlement](#) with federal and state prosecutors, acknowledging his personal involvement in a Medicare and Medicaid fraud scheme. . .

Additionally, Sweetwater, the potential buyer of 11 nursing homes owned by Next Step Healthcare, [has been accused](#) by California prosecutors of deliberate understaffing. That chain agreed to a [\\$15 million settlement](#) in July.

Massachusetts officials also recently [approved AuthentiCare](#), a newly formed company without a track record. The officials did not require the company to agree to any conditions, despite demands from advocates.

[States look beyond their borders to keep problematic nursing home operators out](#) (McKnights Long-Term Care News, October 2, 2026)

Basically, there was nobody minding the store.

	<i>Actually, and this may be shocking for people to hear, there is not exactly a law prohibiting it. State regulators don't like to hear that and certainly when we spoke with the state health commissioner, he was shocked to learn that 16% of the nursing home's budget in another nursing home [of RegalCare's] was siphoned off.</i> <i>But there is no single law that prohibits that. And they can siphon and siphon away if they want, or redirect it to other companies they own, and we found that was happening with RegalCare.</i> <u>Globe Spotlight: Out-of-state operators drained Mass. nursing homes while care quality dropped</u> (New England Public Media, October 2, 2026)
Spotlight	<u>‘Depressing and scandalous’: Lawmakers want Healey administration to explain lax nursing home oversight</u> Boston Globe By Kay Lazar and Neena Hagen October 1, 2026 Summary: Following a <i>Boston Globe</i> investigation revealing that out-of-state operators with spotty or poor records have acquired nearly one in five Massachusetts nursing homes, state lawmakers have fiercely demanded answers from the Healey administration. Legislators expressed outrage that the Department of Public Health (DPH) has not denied a single nursing home purchase in at least seven years, allowing operators like RegalCare's Eli Mirlis—whose facilities plummeted from five-star to one-star ratings while funds were siphoned into real-estate and management companies—to continuously expand despite clear deterioration in resident care. In response to mounting bipartisan criticism and demands for accountability, Governor Maura Healey defended DPH Commissioner Dr. Robbie Goldstein, praising his leadership while acknowledging the deep importance of elder care and resident safety. Simultaneously, under intense public pressure following the report, the Healey administration abruptly announced it would finally implement a 2024 law that expands state vetting authorities. The Public Health Council is scheduled to vote on the long-delayed regulations to allow the

	DPH to thoroughly investigate out-of-state records, finances, and operational history. Lawmakers, advocates, and political figures alike criticized the administration's prolonged inaction and lack of urgency in enforcing protective oversight. Critics—including co-sponsors of the legislation, AARP Massachusetts, and gubernatorial challenger Mike Minogue—emphasized that predatory operators are fleecing public resources at the expense of vulnerable seniors, asserting that stringent enforcement, rigorous financial scrutiny, and absolute accountability are urgently needed across the state's nursing home system.
DignityMA Statement regarding Boston Globe Spotlight Reporting	Dignity Alliance Massachusetts Demands Urgent, Systemic Reform Following Boston Globe Spotlight Investigation into Massachusetts Nursing Home Oversight October 5, 2026 BOSTON, MA — Dignity Alliance Massachusetts calls for immediate, aggressive, and structural reform within the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) in the wake of the Boston Globe Spotlight Team's explosive investigation, <i>"Depressing and scandalous": Lawmakers want Healey administration to explain lax nursing home oversight."</i> As Senator Patricia Jehlen aptly described the findings, the situation is "depressing and scandalous." The Globe's investigation exposes how out-of-state, private-equity-styled operators—many with deeply troubling performance and compliance records—have quietly seized nearly one in five nursing homes across the Commonwealth. This is not a routine regulatory matter; it is a historic crisis. The alarming collapse of quality, oversight, and corporate accountability in long-term care is a primary root cause of the wider health care gridlock, brutal emergency department "boarding," and dangerous inpatient admission bottlenecks currently choking Massachusetts hospitals. A Regulatory Mindset in Crisis For years, advocates and families have witnessed a troubling pattern: the proliferation of out-of-state corporate entities operating under a "tenant-only/management-fee" model that extracts millions

of dollars in rent and management fees while starving frontline caregivers, staffing levels, and resident care supplies.

Most shocking is the revelation in the Spotlight report that DPH executive leadership operated under the astonishing legal and cultural assumption that it was *outright barred* from considering out-of-state performance histories when reviewing ownership and operational transfers. Waving through scores of corporate transfers—including RegalCare, Athena, Royal, and Next Step transitions—without rigorous background vetting or timely public hearings is an unconscionable breach of public trust.

Statutes must always supersede stagnant agency regulations. A state agency cannot stall the effect of new laws or hide behind claims of lacking regulatory tools. When agency policies contradict common sense and statutory mandates, it signals that the regulator has been overtaken by the whims of the very industry it is sworn to oversee.

The Imperative for Meaningful Change

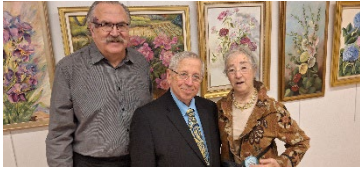
This is not the time for granular debate over survey metrics or technical regulatory or compliance fixes.

We urge leadership to confront the core crisis head-on by demanding answers to critical lines of inquiry:

1. **Challenging Regulatory Capture:** Will the Commissioner commit to a complete overhaul of agency mindset, ensuring DPH focuses on its foundational mission of protecting the health, safety, and consumer rights of all residents, especially those who are most vulnerable and at risk?
2. **Scrutinizing Corporate Transfers:** How will DPH halt the influx of high-risk out-of-state operators and enforce strict background checks, multi-state litigation reviews, and transparency regarding related-party financial extractions?
3. **Fixing Hospital Gridlock & Access:** What emergency directives are being deployed to clear medically ready inpatient bottlenecks and protect access in underserved rural and urban communities—such as Cape Cod, Franklin County, Springfield, and many Boston neighborhoods—lacking long term care resources or facing devastating facility closures?
4. **Enforcing Clinical Safety & Resident Dignity:** How will DPH aggressively audit soaring rates of antipsychotic overprescribing

	and hidden schizophrenia diagnoses, eliminate unsafe three- and four-bedded legacy rooms, and guarantee that residents and families are fully informed of their Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) accounts? A Unified Stand for Resident Dignity The Commonwealth has a solemn and non-negotiable responsibility to ensure that the dignity, rights, and choices of every resident in any facility—or receiving care at home—are always upheld. Achieving this requires an unwavering tripod of Transparency, Accountability, and Resident-Driven Feedback Loops. Dignity Alliance Massachusetts stands shoulder-to-shoulder with legislative leaders, other advocates, families, and frontline workers to demand that the Administration take immediate, uncompromising measures to align the Commonwealth's practice of regulating nursing homes with the fundamental right to safety, accountability, and human dignity.
Recruitment	See: Listings on MASterList.com's Job Board for all current listings
DignityMA Study Session  Kevin Lownds, JD Division Chief Medicaid Fraud Division Office of the Attorney General	DignityMA Study Session: <i>The Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Division</i> Presenter: Kevin Lownds, JD, Division Chief Wednesday, October 14, 2026 10:00 a.m. Registration: https://tinyurl.com/Oct14StudySession The Medicaid Fraud Division within the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office functions as the federally certified Medicaid Fraud Control Unit for the Commonwealth, dedicated to protecting the integrity of MassHealth and defending vulnerable residents. Operating with multidisciplinary teams of prosecutors, forensic auditors, and investigators, the division conducts statewide civil and criminal investigations into healthcare providers suspected of defrauding the system through illegal practices such as false billing, upcoding, kickbacks, and cost-report falsification. Alongside recovering millions in misappropriated taxpayer funds under state and federal False Claims statutes, the unit fulfills a critical patient-protection mandate by investigating and prosecuting allegations of abuse, neglect, mistreatment, and financial exploitation of patients in nursing homes, long-term care facilities, and community-based healthcare settings.

Recognition



Paul Lanzikos, former Senator
Dick Moore, Margaret Gullette

Senator Richard T. Moore Community Room

The Board of Library Trustees for Gladys E. Kelly Library in Webster, MA has dedicated the community room in the recently completed new library as the *Senator Richard T. Moore Community Room*. The dedication occurred during an October 4, 2026 ceremony attended by over one hundred guests including many current and previous state legislators and local public officials. Margaret Gullette and Paul Lanzikos represented Dignity Alliance Massachusetts at the event.

In Person and / or Online Events

1. [Engaging Untapped Talent: The Power of Disability Inclusion](#) Massachusetts Apprentice Network

Tuesday, October 6, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

In honor of Disability Employment Awareness Month, Massachusetts Apprentice Network hosts a virtual event about how employers can intentionally recruit, hire and train individuals with disabilities through apprenticeships and other early talent pathways. Speakers include Becky Jackson Curran of Disability:IN, Rick Laferriere of CVS Health, Jamell Mitchell of EY and Michael Tamasi of AccuRounds.

[The Power of Disability Inclusion Registration](#)

2. [Statutory Advisory Board Meeting](#)

Massachusetts Commission for the Blind

Tuesday, October 6, 2026, 12:00 p.m.

Agenda includes a report from Commissioner John Oliveira and program updates.

[COB Agenda and Livestream](#))

3. [National Disability Employment Awareness Month Celebration](#) Massachusetts Permanent Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities

Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 11:30 a.m.

Great Hall, State House, Boston and Zoom

Lt. Gov. Driscoll gives the keynote. Sen. Lovely and Rep. Garballey will be recognized. There's also an afternoon panel at 2 p.m. in Room 428 called "Artificial Intelligence, Disability, and the Future of Work," which will bring together leaders in accessibility, employment, technology and the disability community.

[Disability Employment Awareness More Info and Zoom](#)

4. [AI and Disability Employment](#) Massachusetts Permanent Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities

Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

Room 428, State House, Boston and Zoom

Alexandra DeVoe, a lead accessibility engineer for the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security, joins a panel on artificial intelligence, disability, and the future of work hosted by the Commission on the Status of Persons with Disabilities. DeVoe, who has more than 20 years of experience in web design, front-end engineering, and accessibility, is expected to discuss the role of accessibility as new technologies are designed and introduced.

[AI Register and Virtual Access](#)

5. *Massachusetts DeafBlind Awareness Day*

	Thursday, October 8, 2026, 10:00 a.m. Great Hall, State House, Boston Massachusetts DeafBlind Awareness Day will highlight the importance of services to support residents who are deafblind. The event's theme is "From Infants to Elders: Real Stories...Real Lives." Rep. Livingstone gives remarks.
Webinars and Online Sessions	6. <u>Oh, What a Tangled Web They Weave: Nursing Home Ownership, Transparency, and Accountability.</u> Long Term Care Community Coalition Tuesday, October 20, 2026, 1:00 p.m. In this webinar, Alissa Halperin, founder and principal of <u>Halperin Health Policy Solutions</u>, will unravel the increasingly complex ownership structures behind today's nursing homes. She will explain how opacity impedes vetting, accountability, and program integrity -- and why these challenges matter for residents and the quality of their care. Alissa will also provide recommendations for state policy makers and advocates for specific action steps they can take to tackle this challenging issue. <u>Ownership, Transparency, and Accountability Registration</u> 7. <u>"One Big Beautiful Bill" Act (OB3): Key Health Care Provisions and Impacts in Massachusetts (October 2026)</u> Blue Cross Foundation Thursday, October 22, 2026, 1:00 p.m. The Foundation will be hosting a webinar on Thursday, October 22nd from 1-2pm (EST) with a particular focus on updated information related to Medicaid and Marketplace eligibility and financing changes. <u>OB3 Registration</u> 8. <u>Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Resources</u> Justice in Aging Wednesday, October 28, 2026, 2:00 p.m. Supplemental Security Income (SSI) provides critical cash assistance for low-income older adults and individuals with disabilities to pay for housing, food, health care, transportation, and other essentials. Under the current rules, which were last updated in 1989, SSI has an exceptionally low resource limit of \$2,000 for an individual, and \$3,000 for a married couple. In this webinar, presenters will explain the SSI resource rules, strategies to address common problems, and policy solutions. Who Should Attend: • Aging, disability and legal aid providers • Aging and disability advocates • Other professionals who work with individuals who may be eligible for SSI Key Takeaways: • Understand how resources and the resource limit can affect SSI eligibility; • Identify what does not count toward the resource limit; • Identify strategies to resolve common SSI resource problems; and • Gain knowledge on poverty traps and identify policy solutions that would help older adults and people with disabilities save money and plan for the future. <u>SSI Registration</u>
Previously posted webinars and online sessions	Previously posted webinars and online sessions can be viewed at: <u>https://dignityalliancema.org/webinars-and-online-sessions/</u>

9. Association of Health Care Journalists

October 2, 2026

[Nursing home oversight lags, putting residents at risk](#)

By Liz Seegert

[Recent KFF analysis](#) of federal inspection data highlights a strong correlation between short staffing and serious harm to residents in U.S. nursing homes, revealing that facilities with lower staffing levels are significantly more likely to be cited for severe violations such as fractures from falls or unaddressed medical emergencies.

Compounding these safety concerns, federal oversight has scaled back under the Trump administration, which rolled back Biden-era minimum staffing requirements, prioritized complaint-driven surveys over routine inspections, and suspended deadlines for detailed ownership disclosures. These rollbacks draw intense criticism from advocacy groups who argue that eliminating critical transparency rules obscures the risks linked to private equity and complex multi-facility chains. With roughly 13% of nursing homes currently lagging behind standard inspection schedules—and a notable portion going uninspected since early 2024—experts emphasize that the burden of catching neglect is increasingly shifting onto residents and their families, urging journalists to scrutinize local facilities, track complex ownership structures, and demand accountability for patient safety.

10. McKnights Long-Term Care News

October 2, 2026

[States look beyond their borders to keep problematic nursing home operators out](#)

By Lola Offenback

Despite ongoing concerns and troubling track records, Massachusetts officials have approved multiple nursing home acquisitions by questionable out-of-state operators. Notably, approvals were granted to RegalCare—whose owner recently settled a Medicare and Medicaid fraud case, admitted to personal involvement, and lied about a previous 2018 license revocation—and whose acquired homes in Quincy and Taunton plummeted from five-star to one-star ratings. Regulators also allowed Sweetwater, a chain facing accusations of deliberate understaffing and a \$15 million settlement with California prosecutors, to pursue 11 facilities from Next Step Healthcare, while newly formed, unproven AuthentiCare was cleared to buy homes without any conditions despite warnings from elder advocates.

11. New England Public Media

October 2, 2026

[Globe Spotlight: Out-of-state operators drained Mass. nursing homes while care quality dropped](#)

By Carrie Healy

An interview with *Boston Globe* reporter Kay Lazar.

A comprehensive *Boston Globe* Spotlight investigation highlighted by New England Public Media details how out-of-state operators acquired dozens of Massachusetts nursing homes—such as RegalCare facilities in Holyoke and Greenfield—and squeezed them for profit, leading to severe staff reductions, siphoned budgets, and plunging federal care

	ratings while state regulators failed to deny a single license application in over seven years.
Marsters Settlement	12. Center for Public Representation September 28, 2026 <i>Bringing People Home: A Commitment from the Commonwealth</i> On June 29, The Healey-Driscoll Administration gathered administration leaders, advocates, and legislators at the Massachusetts State House to celebrate the first year of the Commonwealth’s Community Living Initiative. The program stems from the requirements in the Marsters Settlement Agreement, and includes commitments to informed choice, community supports, and the right to live in the community. The Commonwealth published a report focusing on cross-agency efforts to offer in-reach and informed choice and to transition 2,400 people with disabilities from nursing facilities to community settings over the next eight years. This timely commitment comes at a time when the right to live in the community is under attack by the federal government, and particularly the Department of Justice. State officials thanked the Dignity Alliance by name at our last quarterly meeting, and the Marsters implementation team looks forward to our continued collaborative push to ensure that people in nursing facilities can learn about community alternatives, leave nursing facilities, and return home with the services and supports they need. For those interested in offering additional input in the implementation of the Marsters Settlement Agreement, please email kwalker@cpr-ma.org to join a workgroup. https://www.mass.gov/doc/community-living-initiative-annual-report-2026
Office of Attorney General Andrea Campbell	13. Office of Attorney General Andrea Campbell September 28, 2026 <i><u>AG Campbell Secures \$1.25 Million Settlement With Brockton Adult Foster Care Provider For Failing To Comply With Key Regulatory Requirements</u></i> Attorney General Andrea Campbell’s office secured a \$1.25 million settlement with a Brockton adult foster care provider, <i>WeCare 365</i>, after an investigation revealed the facility failed to comply with key regulatory requirements. The agreement addresses enforcement actions by the state's Medicaid Fraud Division to ensure healthcare and caregiving providers strictly adhere to state standards and protect the integrity of public-funded programs.
Federal Policy	14. Blue Cross Foundation October 1, 2026 <i><u>“One Big Beautiful Bill” Act (OB3): Key Health Care Provisions and Impacts in Massachusetts (Updated October 2026)</u></i> In July 2025, Congress enacted H.R. 1, also known as the “One Big Beautiful Bill” Act (OB3), which is a major tax and domestic policy law that includes significant changes to Medicaid and Marketplace eligibility, payments, and financing. This chart pack serves as an update to a Foundation resource first published in December 2025. This updated version provides an overview of the public coverage programs in Massachusetts, explains

	the key Medicaid and Marketplace provisions in OB3, including their implementation status, and elevates what we know about how these provisions are impacting the coverage landscape, health care financing, and the health care delivery system in Massachusetts. Drawing on previous Foundation policy and research publications as well as other publicly available sources, this chart pack provides a digestible resource for a diverse audience of stakeholders, including policymakers, advocates, providers, and others who work to ensure Massachusetts' role as a leader in health care coverage and access.
From Around the Country	15. STL News September 26, 2026 Ensign Group Faces Growing Investor Investigations By Martin Smith The Ensign Group Inc. is facing growing investor investigations and a shareholder derivative lawsuit following critical short-seller reports published by Hunterbrook Media and Muddy Waters Research regarding the senior care and skilled nursing company's quality of care, staffing, and regulatory compliance.
A Raise for Mom: Campaign to Increase the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA)	<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 <u>Buy the book here</u> 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. <u>American Eldercide: How It Happened, How to Prevent It</u> By <u>Margaret Morganroth Gullette</u> <u>Buy the book here.</u> 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.
Bringing People Home: The Marsters Settlement	Webpages: https://www.centerforpublicrep.org/court_case/marsters-et-al-v-healey-et-al/ https://marsters.centerforpublicrep.org/ Marsters data for the calendar year 2025: • 499 people who have returned and are active in the community • Efforts to validate status of 63 others who are in the community • Target for 2025 and 2026 is 600 transitions • 1,369 currently enrolled • 100 AHVP vouchers issued for transitions: 71 used, 10 in process. The Alternative Housing Voucher Program (AHVP) is a state-funded rental assistance program in Massachusetts specifically designed for non-elderly (under age 60) people with disabilities who have low incomes.
Support Dignity Alliance Massachusetts <u>Please Donate!</u>	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</i>

	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	Risking Old Age in America https://okayboomer.substack.com/ By Harry Margolis With 65 million Baby Boomers becoming older by the day, the United States is facing a looming elder care crisis. This blog explores how the nation and individuals can prepare for it.	
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.
Nursing Home Inspect	ProPublica Nursing Home Inspect Data updated October 15, 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 (July 1, 2022 through September 30, 2025). Massachusetts listing: https://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/state/MA Deficiencies By Severity in Massachusetts (What do the severity ratings mean?) Deficiency Tag # Deficiencies in # Reports MA facilities cited B 257 187 Tag B

	<table><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></table> Updated October 15, 2025	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
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																																						
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. 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	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	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																																						
Most workgroups meet bi-weekly via Zoom.																																									

Interest Groups meet periodically (monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly). Please contact group leaders for more information.	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
<i>Bringing People Home: Implementing the Marsters class action settlement</i>	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/		
<i>REV UP Massachusetts</i>	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 .		
<i>The Dignity Digest</i>	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> : • Wynn Gerhard • 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. Our guiding principle is the assurance of dignity for those receiving the services as well as for those providing them. The information presented in “The Dignity Digest” is obtained from publicly available sources and does not necessarily represent positions held by Dignity Alliance Massachusetts. Previous issues of The Tuesday Digest and The Dignity Digest are available at: https://dignityalliancema.org/dignity-digest/</i> <i>For more information about Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, please visit www.DignityAllianceMA.org.</i>			