The Dignity Digest

Issue # 307 November 3, 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

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 Ballot as Advocacy: Making Our Voices Heard

As we turn the calendar into November, the democratic process takes center stage. While we advocate throughout the year through legislative testimony, coalition meetings, public hearings, and grassroots organizing, voting remains one of the most direct, powerful tools we have to shape the future of elder and disability justice.

Every election is an opportunity to translate our shared values into policy. When we cast our ballots, we are not simply choosing candidates; we are choosing whether to prioritize accessible housing, robust home- and community-based services, fair wages for direct-care workers, stringent oversight in long-term care facilities, and the fundamental right of every individual to age and live with dignity.

As the late civil rights leader and Congressman John Lewis reminded us:

> *"The vote is precious. It is the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democratic society, and we must use it."*

For older adults, individuals with disabilities, and all who champion their rights, participation at the ballot box is a continuation of our daily advocacy. It ensures that our communities cannot be overlooked and that the needs of our most vulnerable populations remain a legislative priority.

Thank you for being active, engaged citizens who fight for justice not only with your voices and your time, but with your votes.

Guide to news items in this week's *Dignity Digest*	Nursing Homes • *War on Fraud or 'Rewards' for Allies: Report Calls for Nursing Home Transparency Amid Industry Divisions Over Reform* **(Skilled Nursing News,** October 30, 2026) Assisted Living • *What providers can learn from Minnesota's quality-measuring efforts in assisted living* **(McKnights Senior Living,** November 1, 2026) Aging Topics • *5 habits that could help keep you out of a nursing home, from an orthopedic surgeon* **(Fox News,** November 1, 2026) Disability Topics • *Cambridge native Siân Heder won Oscars for 'CODA.' Now she's using that success to honor a disability rights hero.* **(*Boston Globe,** October 29, 2026) Health Care Topics • *Governor Healey Kicks Off 2027 Health Connector Open Enrollment, Encourages Residents to Get Covered* **(Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll,** October 23, 2026) • *Nursing care, home health rates increase 3.7 percent year over year, second highest increase in healthcare* **(McKnights Long-Term Care News,** October 26, 2026) Elder / Disabled Abuse • *Man charged with sexually assaulting two older adults in Newton* **(*Boston Globe,** October 30, 2026) Private Equity • *A private equity firm defaulted on its mortgage for a Boston tower. Then it repurchased the building at a 68% discount*. **(*Boston Globe,** October 30, 2026) Medicaid • *AG Campbell Celebrates Major Victory Blocking Implementation Of Unlawful Medicaid Work Requirements For Medically Frail Individuals* **(Office of Attorney General Andrea Campbell,** October 29, 2026) Veterans • *Governor Healey Unveils New Veterans Home at Holyoke, Marking New Era of Veterans Care* **(Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll,** October 29, 2026) From Around the Country • *Wisconsin no longer reports who owns the state's nursing homes* **(Civic Media,** October 30, 2026)
Quotes	*"We can never undo the tragedy that happened at [the Veterans' Home in] Holyoke, but we can honor*

those we lost by making sure nothing like it happens again.

Governor Maura Healey, *Governor Healey Unveils New Veterans Home at Holyoke, Marking New Era of Veterans Care* **(Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll,** October 29, 2026)

"Nursing home care grew by 6.8%, and home healthcare by 7.8%, with home healthcare spending growth at a significantly lower rate than in the previous year."

George Mille, Altarum Fellow, Health Economics and Policy, *Nursing care, home health rates increase 3.7 percent year over year, second highest increase in healthcare* **(McKnights Long-Term Care News,** October 26, 2026)

"Access to health insurance is essential to building healthier communities. When residents have coverage, they are better positioned to receive preventive care, manage chronic conditions, and get the medical attention they need."

Dr. Bisola Ojikutu, Boston Commissioner of Public Health, *Governor Healey Kicks Off 2027 Health Connector Open Enrollment, Encourages Residents to Get Covered* **(Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll,** October 23, 2026)

"This victory [blocking implementation of unlawful Medicaid work requirements] protects access to healthcare for residents with serious illnesses and disabilities and ensures their care won't be interrupted due to unlawful red tape."

Attorney General Andrea Campbell, *AG Campbell Celebrates Major Victory Blocking Implementation Of Unlawful Medicaid Work Requirements For Medically Frail Individuals* **(Office of Attorney General Andrea Campbell,** October 29, 2026)

"Anybody who is looking at a nursing home for their loved one, that would be good information to have: Who owns this? What kind of company are they? This is Wisconsin data that should be in [the state]

database for people to look at. Frankly, with what's going on at the federal level, we don't trust that they're going to have that information for very long."

Judy Brey, retired teacher and organizer with Small Town and Rural Seniors (STARS), *Wisconsin no longer reports who owns the state's nursing homes* **(Civic Media,** October 30, 2026)

"The most common mistake I see seniors making as they age is assuming that aging is an inevitable decline from vitality to frailty. They just assume that a certain number of birthday candles predisposes them to sitting on a couch the rest of their life. The reality is that there is no age or skill level when we can't become more mobile, when we can't build muscle or reconnect the neuromuscular pathways... there is no age or skill level when you're done."

Dr. Vonda Wright, Orthopedic Surgeon and Longevity Specialist, *5 habits that could help keep you out of a nursing home, from an orthopedic surgeon* **(Fox News,** November 1, 2026)

"The actions of bad actors hurt the entire nursing home sector. They undermine public trust, threaten the viability of an essential care infrastructure, and cast a shadow over the compassionate work happening every day in nursing homes across the country. It should not be as hard or as complicated as the report makes clear to determine ownership and understand whom to hold accountable. We support transparency so that all can know information about owners, operators, and management."

Katie Smith Sloan, President and CEO of LeadingAge, *War on Fraud or 'Rewards' for Allies: Report Calls for Nursing Home Transparency Amid Industry Divisions Over Reform* **(Skilled Nursing News,** October 30, 2026)

"We know that more people prefer to live in assisted living. We know that assisted living is growing, is

	booming as an industry, and yet we have so little data… The goal of this effort from the start was to provide information to current and potential future assisted living residents and families, as well as the public, about assisted living settings to help people make informed decisions and to encourage quality improvement efforts among assisted living providers." *What providers can learn from Minnesota's quality-measuring efforts in assisted living* **(McKnights Senior Living,** November 1, 2026)
Spotlight	*Wyden, Whitehouse, Kim and Warren Expose Trump for Rewarding Nursing Home Fraudsters and Harming Residents* *Investigation from Senate Democrats Reveals Strategies Used by Corporate Investors in Nursing Homes to Siphon Taxpayer Dollars to Profits Instead of Staffing and Care* **US Senate Finance Committee** October 29, 2026 *Text of the Report (PDF)* **Washington, D.C.** – Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden, D-Ore., and Senators Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., Andy Kim, D-N.J., and Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., today released a new investigation revealing harm to residents in nursing homes as Donald Trump hands out political favors and grants clemency to nursing home owners convicted of fraud and other financial crimes. "This report is the product of a Senate Finance Committee Minority investigation into how the Trump administration has accelerated a crisis that was already years in the making–rewarding investors who put profits over people and abandoning nursing home residents and workers," the senators wrote in a cover letter for the report. "It documents the bad actors, the backdoor deals, and the human cost when Trump is in charge of America's long-term care. For American families with a loved one in a nursing home, there is no greater fear than an unsafe environment that could

lead to abuse or neglect. They deserve a government that safeguards their loved ones and prevents harm from ever happening in the first place."

The report documents the sophisticated strategies nursing home operators and their private equity and corporate backers use to hide profits, cut staff, and skirt safety regulations and examines how Trump and his allies collected political donations and rewarded bad actors with deregulation and political favors.

The consequences of this deregulation and understaffing are deadly. The report documents horrific and sometimes fatal instances of harm, including nursing home residents suffering from severe neglect, untreated infections, and preventable deaths when they wander away from unsecured facilities. In other cases, nursing homes relied on chemical restraints, inappropriately drugging residents with antipsychotics to make up for a lack of staff.

The key findings from the report are:

- Investment entities have built business models that systematically extract taxpayer dollars from nursing homes.
- The financial structures used to siphon money from nursing homes are largely invisible to regulators and families.
- The oversight system meant to catch bad actors is underfunded and failing. Nearly a third of nursing homes are behind on annual inspections.
- Trump rewarded bad actors with pardons, commutations, and political appointments, all while claiming to mount a faulty "full-scale war on fraud."
- Nursing home residents across the country are suffering preventable harm, including neglect, infections, and death due to chronic understaffing.

The report concludes by making clear that a comprehensive update to federal nursing home policy is needed to protect nursing home residents and ensure that bad actors aren't able to use

	sophisticated business practices to avoid oversight. Earlier this month, Wyden led the release of a request for information seeking feedback on proposals to address the structural conditions that allowed nursing home bad actors to thrive and an array of additional policies to update long-term care in America. The text of the report, including the cover letter and executive summary, is here.
Recruitment	**See: Listings on MASSterList.com's Job Board** for all current listings
In Person and / or Online Events	**1. Massachusetts Commission for the Blind** Tuesday, November 3, 2026, 12:00 p.m. *Statutory Advisory Board meeting* Agenda includes a report from Commissioner John Oliveira and program updates. BlindAgenda and Zoom (opens mass.gov in a new tab)) **2. "How to Help: An Introduction to Behavioral Health Resources & Services in Western Massachusetts."** Thursday, November 5, 2026, 6:30 p.m. Webinar hosted by Rep. Mindy Domb of Amherst, Co-chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery. It features presenters from the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership and the Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts. There will also be overviews of statewide resources, including the Behavioral Health Help Line and community behavioral health centers. Behavioral Health Registration **3. Executive Office of Health and Human Services** Friday, November 6, 2026, 10:00 a.m. *Hearing on the emergency adoption of regulatory changes tied to nursing facility user fees* The changes include updating and clarifying definitions around Medicaid bed days, Medicare patient days and non-Medicare patient days, as well as adding definitions for skilled days and non-skilled days in order to "better reflect current MassHealth delivery systems," according to the hearing notice. Other changes update interest and late fee provisions, which officials say will give EOHHS "greater administrative flexibility in assessing interest and penalties for delinquent user fee assessments." More Info and Access (opens mass.gov in a new tab) **4. Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Services** Friday, November 6, 2026, 1:00 p.m. *Virtual meeting*

	The council is made up of 25 appointed individuals (opens mass.gov in a new tab) who advise Gov. Healey on matters impacting veterans in Massachusetts. Veterans Access
Webinars and Online Sessions	5. *Understanding the Midterm Election Results: A Healthcare Outlook* **Massachusetts Health and Hospital Association** Friday, November 6, 2026, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association hosts a webinar about understanding the midterm election results with a healthcare outlook. Lobbyists from the Washington, D.C.-based firm Alston & Bird will focus on the Massachusetts delegation and implications for healthcare policy. MHHARegister (opens mhalink.org in a new tab)) **6. Older Immigrants and Medicare Updates** **Justice in Aging** Wednesday, November 18, 2026, 2:00 p.m. The Budget Reconciliation Act of 2025 (H.R. 1) significantly changes health care access for older immigrants, including eliminating Medicare eligibility for some lawfully present immigrants who were previously eligible. H.R.1 leaves limited options for low-income older immigrants to access health care, and many may become uninsured due to the high cost of private health insurance. Advocates play an important role in helping older immigrants prepare for the upcoming Medicare terminations in 2027. Impacted individuals will begin receiving notices in Fall 2026. Some immigrants who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid will see overlapping changes to their health coverage, including the loss of Medicaid payment of Medicare premiums and cost-sharing before their Medicare coverage ends. This webinar will include an overview of immigrant eligibility for Medicare, the H.R.1 Medicare and Medicaid eligibility changes that impact older immigrants, implementation timelines, strategies advocates can provide to clients navigating these changes and resources to stay up-to-date on Medicare eligibility changes. Who Should Attend: • Aging and disability service providers • Legal aid attorneys • Advocates who work with immigrants impacted by the new Medicare eligibility rules • State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs). Older Immigrants Medicare registration
Previously posted webinars and online sessions	Previously posted webinars and online sessions can be viewed at: https://dignityalliancema.org/webinars-and-online-sessions/
Nursing Homes	**7. Skilled Nursing News** October 30, 2026 *War on Fraud or 'Rewards' for Allies: Report Calls for Nursing Home Transparency Amid Industry Divisions Over Reform* By Zahida Siddiqi A new congressional investigation led by Senate Finance Committee Democrats—including Senators Elizabeth Warren, Ron Wyden, Sheldon Whitehouse, and Andy Kim—reveals how private equity firms, real

	estate investment trusts, and politically connected operators extract vast sums from nursing homes while gutting direct patient care. Highlighting that operators funnel up to 68% of their profits into opaque, related-party corporate entities to evade liability and accountability, the report outlines how federal deregulation—such as the repeal of federal minimum staffing standards and the indefinite postponement of corporate ownership disclosure mandates—has coincided with alarming spikes in resident neglect, untreated infections, preventable deaths from elopement, and the rampant misuse of antipsychotic drugs as chemical restraints to compensate for severe short-staffing. The investigation further criticizes political favoritism and administrative double standards, contrasting claims of an aggressive federal crackdown on Medicaid and Medicare fraud with high-profile pardons, commutations, and political appointments granted to convicted nursing home operators who defrauded federal programs of millions of dollars while steering massive campaign donations to political action committees. Compounding the breakdown, the report details severe failures across the enforcement system: nearly one-third of nursing homes are overdue for mandatory annual state inspections, long-term care ombudsman offices remain chronically starved of resources, and two-thirds of facilities graduating from the CMS Special Focus Facility (SFF) program lapse back into serious noncompliance within three years. The findings have sharpened divisions across the long-term care sector over reform and corporate disclosure. Nonprofit provider association LeadingAge strongly endorsed the Senate's call for complete ownership transparency, warning that bad actors and opaque corporate shields actively destroy public trust and siphon essential resources away from bedside care. In contrast, the for-profit American Health Care Association (AHCA/NCAL) dismissed the report's policy prescriptions as backward-looking and sensationalized, denying that it had lobbied for individual executive pardons and arguing that chronic Medicaid underfunding—not corporate greed or systemic lack of oversight—remains the primary driver of operational instability and quality shortfalls across the nation's nursing homes.
Assisted Living	**8. McKnights Senior Living** November 1, 2026 *What providers can learn from Minnesota's quality-measuring efforts in assisted living* By Lois A. Bowers Minnesota's pioneering Assisted Living Report Card initiative—funded by the state legislature and evaluated by the University of Minnesota—provides a national model for establishing transparent, standardized quality and satisfaction metrics in a traditionally data-scarce sector. Presenting at the 2026 LeadingAge Annual Meeting, state officials and researchers highlighted findings from 2025 surveys of more than 12,000 residents and 14,000 family members across 1,700 assisted living communities, revealing that while three-quarters of residents gave their facilities an "A" or "B" grade, significant performance gaps persist across facility types and operational areas. Nonprofit providers

	consistently outperformed for-profit competitors across all resident quality-of-life domains, and physical environment rated highest among both cohorts, whereas food, social engagement, and assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs) scored the lowest. Crucially, the data demonstrated that family and resident perspectives often diverge and are not interchangeable, emphasizing that public quality reporting must capture both viewpoints to guide consumer choice and pinpoint targeted operational improvements for providers.
Private Equity	**9. *Boston Globe** October 30, 2026 *A private equity firm defaulted on its mortgage for a Boston tower. Then it repurchased the building at a 68% discount.* By Catherine Carlock Private equity firm Rockpoint Group repurchased the 32-story downtown Boston office tower at 100 Summer St. for $260 million at a foreclosure auction—a 68 percent discount from the $806 million it paid in 2019—after defaulting on its $470 million mortgage due to post-pandemic commercial real estate valuation declines. Such distressed asset restructuring remains exclusive to large institutional players with billions in assets rather than average homeowners.
Aging Topics	**10. Fox News** November 1, 2026 *5 habits that could help keep you out of a nursing home, from an orthopedic surgeon* By Melissa Rudy *Dr Vonda Wright urges older adults to reject the assumption that aging means inevitable decline* Highlighting that nearly three out of four adults aged 50 and older want to age in place, orthopedic surgeon and longevity authority Dr. Vonda Wright outlines five core habits to preserve mobility and avoid long-term institutionalization: maintaining continuous daily movement, prioritizing progressive muscle strengthening, eating an adequate-calorie and protein-forward diet, rejecting the defeatist mindset that aging equals inevitable frailty, and holding early, proactive family discussions about long-term care preferences and practical supports. Emphasizing "skeletal longevity" as the often-overlooked foundation of personal independence, Dr. Wright points to landmark research showing that adults well into their 80s and 90s can rebuild functional strength, noting that staying active rather than defaulting to rest is essential for maintaining daily self-care tasks and autonomy at home.
Disability Topics	**11. *Boston Globe** October 29, 2026 *Cambridge native Siân Heder won Oscars for 'CODA.' Now she's using that success to honor a disability rights hero.* By Matt Juul *The director returns to the big screen with 'Being Heumann,' a new biopic about activist Judy Heumann.* Following her Academy Award triumphs for CODA, Cambridge-born filmmaker Siân Heder leveraged her post-Oscar industry clout to bring the legacy of disability rights icon Judy Heumann to the screen in Being

	Heumann, co-written with Rebekah Taussig and premiering in November 2026. Starring English actress and wheelchair user Ruth Madeley alongside Mark Ruffalo and Rob Delaney, the biographical film centers on Heumann's leadership during the historic 1977 26-day sit-in at a San Francisco federal building—the longest occupation of a federal building in U.S. history—which forced the government to implement Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Beyond chronicling Heumann's ferocious civil rights activism, the production intentionally featured an extensive ensemble of disabled performers—including multiple wheelchair users, blind, deaf, and neurodivergent actors—transforming the set into a pioneering, universally accessible filmmaking environment that Heder and Madeley hope will serve as an adaptable blueprint for industry-wide inclusion.
Health Care Topics	**12. Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll** October 23, 2026 *Governor Healey Kicks Off 2027 Health Connector Open Enrollment, Encourages Residents to Get Covered* *Massachusetts continues to fill gap left by expiration of federal ACA tax credits to keep coverage affordable* Governor Maura Healey kicked off the Massachusetts Health Connector's Open Enrollment period for 2027 coverage, which runs from October 23, 2026, through January 23, 2027, urging uninsured and renewing residents across the Commonwealth to secure high-quality, affordable health and dental plans. Highlighting Massachusetts' position as an access leader, the administration emphasized available financial help through Advance Premium Tax Credits (APTC) and ConnectorCare to lower monthly premiums and out-of-pocket costs, while advising residents to enroll and pay by December 23, 2026, to ensure coverage begins on January 1, 2027. Video of the announcement: Governor Healey Open Enrollment Kickoff. **13. McKnights Long-Term Care News** October 26, 2026 *Nursing care, home health rates increase 3.7 percent year over year, second highest increase in healthcare* By Kathleen Steele Gaivin According to an analysis by Altarum highlighting data on health sector economic indicators, nursing care and home health service rates increased by 3.7% year over year, marking the second-highest rate increase across the entire healthcare sector. This upward price pressure reflects ongoing financial and operational headwinds within post-acute and long-term care settings—driven by persistent labor expenses, cost growth, and broader macroeconomic factors impacting both skilled nursing facilities and home-based care providers.
Elder / Disabled Abuse	**14. *Boston Globe** October 30, 2026 *Man charged with sexually assaulting two older adults in Newton* By Travis Andersen and John R. Ellement Sean Patrick Capalbo pleaded not guilty in Newton District Court to two felony counts of indecent assault and battery on a person over 60 following separate attacks on female residents this October near Lasell

	Village, a retirement community on the Lasell University campus. Held on $500 bail at the Middlesex Jail and House of Correction due to his prior record and history of missed court dates, Capalbo allegedly approached victims near the campus pond and Seminary Avenue—in one instance using a pretext about a spider—with campus police and the Middlesex District Attorney's Office continuing their joint investigation ahead of his next hearing on November 24.
Medicaid	**15. Office of Attorney General Andrea Campbell** October 29, 2026 *AG Campbell Celebrates Major Victory Blocking Implementation Of Unlawful Medicaid Work Requirements For Medically Frail Individuals* Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell, co-leading a 24-state coalition alongside California and New Jersey, secured a significant federal court victory on October 29, 2026, when the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts blocked federal efforts to impose restrictive Medicaid work requirements on medically vulnerable individuals. In the decision, the court ruled that the administration's interim final rule under the Big Beautiful Bill Act—which narrowed the statutory definition of "medically frail" and threatened to strip safety-net healthcare coverage through increased administrative red tape—was contrary to law, vacating the language, issuing a permanent injunction, and granting plaintiff states a six-month stay of enforcement to prevent disruptions as rollout procedures are adjusted.
Veterans	**16. Office of Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll** October 29, 2026 *Governor Healey Unveils New Veterans Home at Holyoke, Marking New Era of Veterans Care* *New 234-bed facility builds on years of historic investments and major improvements in veterans care, safety and quality across Massachusetts* On October 29, 2026, Governor Maura Healey, joined by federal, state, and local leaders, unveiled the newly completed $482 million Veterans Home at Holyoke, signaling a transformative milestone in resident safety, dignity, and quality of care following the tragic 2020 COVID-19 outbreak. Replacing the 1952 facility, the state-of-the-art, 350,000-square-foot building expands long-term care capacity from 128 to 234 beds, adopting the VA small-house model with 212 private rooms, dedicated communal spaces, upgraded clinical suites, a 30-bed specialized memory care unit, and a memorial garden honoring fallen veterans. Designed with energy-efficient systems including geothermal heating and cooling, the facility will transition residents in phases to avoid care disruption, while a second phase—adding a 40-person adult day health program to serve the broader veteran community—remains on track for full campus completion by summer 2028.
From Around the Country	**17. Civic Media** October 30, 2026 *Wisconsin no longer reports who owns the state's nursing homes* By Hope Kirwan

	Advocacy group for older adults says the lack of transparency from the state benefits private companies buying up nursing homes, hurts residents' ability to choose care The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has quietly removed ownership names and facility operating types—such as for-profit, nonprofit, or government-run—from its public online nursing home directory, sparking strong pushback from elder advocates amid a wave of county-owned facilities being sold to private operators. While DHS officials claimed the omission resulted from an internal migration to a new data system and pointed consumers toward federal Medicare Cost Compare tools, grassroots advocacy groups like Small Town and Rural Seniors (STARS) argue that stripping state-level ownership transparency shields private corporate chains from public scrutiny, passing the buck and leaving families in the dark when evaluating quality of care and corporate track records.
A Raise for Mom: Campaign to Increase the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA)	***The Campaign to Increase the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA)*** For nearly 20 years, the Personal Needs Allowance for Nursing Home and Rest Home residents has been stuck at $72.80 per month. **If** inflation had been factored since the amount was last set, the allowance should now be about $113.42. Costs for everything have increased over the last two decades, but the PNA has remained unchanged. That means that folks residing in nursing homes and rest homes have been paying ever higher prices for their personal needs – items not covered within the care, room, and board required to be provided by nursing and rest homes. These residents are obligated to pay almost all their monthly Social Security and other income for their basic care leaving the PNA to cover all other life's necessities. Amplifying this situation, Massachusetts has the highest cost of living of any state in the continental United States – meaning these vulnerable residents can afford less each and every year. Three similar bills have been filed in the Massachusetts Legislature this year and are awaiting a public hearing with the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, chaired by Senator Cindy Friedman and Representative John Lawn. The bills to raise the PNA are Senate Bill 887 by Senator Joan Lovely and others; Senate Bill 482 by Senators Patricia Jehlen and Mark Montigny and others; and House Bill 1411 by Representative Thomas Stanley and others. As of 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	***A Perfect Turmoil: Walter E. Fernald and the Struggle to Care for America's Disabled*** By Alex Green **Buy the book here** 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. ***American Eldercide: How It Happened, How to Prevent It*** By Margaret Morganroth Gullette **Buy the book here.** **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.
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 **Please Donate!**	Dignity Alliance Massachusetts is a grassroots, volunteer-run 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to transformative change to ensure the dignity of older adults, people with disabilities, and their caregivers. We are committed to advancing ways of providing long-term services, support, living options and care that respect individual choice and self-determination. Through education, legislation, regulatory reform, and legal strategies, this mission will become reality throughout the Commonwealth. **As a fully volunteer operation, our financial needs are modest, but also real. Your donation helps to produce and distribute *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	***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 *The Dignity Digest.*
Previously posted funding opportunities	For open funding opportunities previously posted in *The Tuesday Digest* 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** *List of Special Focus Facilities and Candidates* *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 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

Updated October 15, 2025

Nursing Home Compare

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

Nursing Home Compare Website

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

Data on Ownership of Nursing Homes

CMS has released data giving state licensing officials, state and federal law enforcement, researchers, and the public an enhanced ability to identify common owners of nursing homes across nursing home locations. This information can be linked to other data sources to identify the performance of facilities under common ownership, such as owners affiliated with multiple nursing homes with a record of poor performance. The data is available on nursing home ownership will be posted to data.cms.gov and updated monthly.

DignityMA Call Action

- **Advocate** for state bills that advance the Dignity Alliance Massachusetts' Mission and Goals **– State Legislative Endorsements**.
- **Support** relevant bills in Washington **– Federal Legislative Endorsements**.
- **Join** our **Work Groups**.
- **Learn** to use and leverage social media at our workshops: **Engaging Everyone: Creating Accessible, Powerful Social Media Content**

Access to Dignity Alliance social media

Email: info@DignityAllianceMA.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/DignityAllianceMA/
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/dignityalliance/
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/dignity-alliance-massachusetts
Twitter: https://twitter.com/dignity_ma?s=21
Website: www.DignityAllianceMA.org

Participation opportunities with Dignity Alliance Massachusetts

Most workgroups meet bi-weekly via Zoom.

Interest Groups meet periodically (monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly).

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
Veteran Services	James Lomastro	jimlomastro@comcast.net

Please contact group leaders for more information.	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 *The Dignity Digest:* 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 *The Dignity Digest:* • Wynn Gerhard • Jim Lomastro • Dick Moore Special thanks to the MetroWest Center for Independent Living for assistance with the website and MailChimp versions of *The Dignity Digest.* *If you have submissions for inclusion in The Dignity Digest or have questions or comments, please submit them to Digest@DignityAllianceMA.org.*		

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