



May 15th, 2026

Joint Committee on Aging & Independence
24 Beacon St., Room 424
Boston, MA 02133

Re: H5243 & S3057 An Act relative to assisted living residences in the Commonwealth

Dear Chairs Jehlen & Stanley:

My name is Jennifer Maynard and I'm the Executive Director for the MassPACE Association, representing the eight PACE organizations in Massachusetts. We are writing to express our support for H5243 & S3057 An Act relative to assisted living residences in the Commonwealth.

PACE stands for Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly. PACE centers provide older adults with all the care they require to live in the community coordinated by an interdisciplinary care team (or IDT). Collectively the PACE programs serve over 6,100 participants across 313 cities and towns and growing.

To enroll in PACE individuals must be 55 or older, live in a community where PACE is offered, and meet the state's definition of eligible for nursing home level of care but be safe in the community. Typically, individuals who enroll in PACE express a desire to remain in the community for as long as possible. The program is jointly administered through Medicare and MassHealth and most enrolled seniors are dually eligible for both programs.

When someone joins PACE, in addition to the program becoming their insurance provider, the PACE program assigns them an IDT. This team includes 11 disciplines including but not limited to a primary care provider, social worker, nurse, health aide, and physical and occupational therapists. The PACE program takes full risk for payment, care planning and coordination of services. In addition to adult day centers, where participants see their primary care providers and other members of the IDT, the program covers services such as transportation, home health, medications, meals, skilled nursing facilities, hospital care, specialty care, and behavioral health to name a few.

ALRs are an important part of the housing ecosystem that support individuals' desires to remain in the community. PACE programs partner with over 60 ALRs and have over 1k residents residing in ALRs across the state. We believe these are valuable partnerships for all parties and support opportunities to enhance the model in Massachusetts. We look forward to serving on the task referenced in Section 7 related to improving access to affordable ALRS. We know that affordability remains a concern for residents, payors, and ALR operators and we look forward to future engagement to ensure a sustainable system.

Thank You,

Jennifer Maynard, DHSc, MPA, RN
Executive Director