



May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Good afternoon,

My name is Jennifer Maynard and I'm the Executive Director for the MassPACE Association. I want to thank the Committee Chairs and the members of the Joint Committee on Aging & Independence for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony in support of *H781 and S477, An Act establishing the program of all-inclusive care for the elderly filed by Representative Madaro and Senator Kennedy.*

First, I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge our appreciation for the work done by this committee to protect and support older adults across the Commonwealth – it seems fitting that we have the opportunity to speak to you while we're also observing Older American's Month. I won't read all the things that define the PACE model of care but I do want to touch on the reasons why we seek your support for this bill.

For over 30 years, PACE programs have been serving older adults in our communities, continuing to invest in this model that fosters independence, dignity and respect for older adults. What you may not know is that in the last several years, the eight PACE providers have further invested in our older adults, by expanding to more than 270 cities and towns (with more coming), operating 20 locations, employing over 1200 individuals and serving almost 6K participants. Year over year participant and caregiver satisfaction rates exceed 90% and 90% of our participants remain in the community, outside of nursing homes. Gone are the days where PACE is referred to as the "best kept secret," we want PACE to be a household name.

PACE makes it possible for individuals who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid or on Medicaid or Medicare only who are nursing home eligible, to age in their communities.

Confirming PACE in state statute, we strongly believe, will elevate the collective knowledge of the program across the legislature, the executive offices, and align PACE with other programs serving similar populations who also already have a place in statute. Most of all, finally putting PACE in statute sends a powerful message to all older adults – we see you, we hear you, your wishes to remain in your community is a priority here in Massachusetts.

But it's not just the association and operators who believe so strongly in this model, it's the participants and the team members that interact with them every day. After you hear from some of them, I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your continued support and consideration.