



May 12, 2025

The Honorable Thomas Stanley, Chair  
The Honorable Patricia Jehlen, Chair  
Joint Committee on Aging and Independence

Dear Chairs Stanley, Jehlen and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of LeadingAge Massachusetts, I am writing to offer our strong support for **HB-784 An Act Relative to Assisted Living Facility Residences Appeal of Findings**

LeadingAge Massachusetts is the only statewide association representing the continuum of not-for-profit providers of housing, health care and services for older adults including nursing homes, residential care facilities, assisted living residences, life plan communities (also known as continuing care retirement communities), subsidized senior housing and other community based service providers. Governed by community-based volunteer boards, our members are sponsored by faith-based, ethnic, fraternal and other not-for-profit organizations, many of whom have been providing care to elders in their communities for more than 100 years. We are striving for a future where all older adults shall have an opportunity to live in age friendly communities where they have access to the services they need when they need them in the place they call home.

This legislation would require the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, now called the Executive Office of Aging and Independence, to establish an informal dispute resolution process for Assisted Living residences to appeal or contest regulatory findings that require corrective action. Currently, if a provider of an Assisted Living Residence disagrees with a finding on the biannual certification review process, the provider can contest or appeal the finding to EOE, however, the appeal request is going to the same individuals and department that issued the finding in the first place. This legislation would create an independent review committee that will review appeals that are received and recommend whether the findings should be sustained or deleted. This is modeled on the very successful informal dispute resolution process (IDR) that has been in place for nursing home appeals through the Department of Public Health for more than 15 years and allows nursing home providers an opportunity to have their disagreement or appeal of a specific citation heard by an independent group. Chapter 197 of the Acts of 2024, establishes the ability of AGE to assess penalties of up to \$500 per day for instances it determines an ALR to be out of compliance with statutory and/or regulatory



requirements. It is critical that providers are given an opportunity to appeal compliance findings that they do not agree with to an independent body.

LeadingAge Massachusetts respectfully asks the committee to act favorably on HB-784.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elissa Sherman". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Elissa Sherman  
President