

2021 -- H 6472

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING PROVISIONS FOR REQUIRING ESSENTIAL CAREGIVERS FOR  
RESIDENTS OF NURSING HOMES AND LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES DURING  
HEALTH DISASTER EMERGENCIES

Introduced By: Representatives P Morgan, Nardone, Speakman, Roberts, Quattrocchi,  
Hull, J Lombardi, Abney, Handy, and McLaughlin

Date Introduced: June 25, 2021

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, Throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency, many of our nation's  
2 most vulnerable people, and their loved ones, lived under the constant fear that getting COVID-  
3 19 could lead to severe complications that could permanently lead to lifelong health ailments or  
4 to death; and

5           WHEREAS, Fear of COVID-19 was even more pronounced for our loved ones residing  
6 in skilled nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for the intellectually disabled, and  
7 inpatient rehabilitation facilities who were unable to have access to their essential caregivers  
8 during the pandemic health emergency. This painful and horrendous isolation had an incredibly  
9 negative impact on the physical and mental well-being of all patients living in these facilities; and

10           WHEREAS, The mental, emotional, and physical health and well-being of Rhode  
11 Island's vulnerable residents of nursing homes and other congregate care facilities is of utmost  
12 concern to the people of Rhode Island; and

13           WHEREAS, In 2021, the Rhode Island House of Representatives unanimously passed an  
14 Essential Caregiver bill requiring rules and regulations to provide for the designation of essential  
15 caregivers to provide in-person physical or emotional support to a resident of a nursing home or  
16 long-term care facility during the period of fifteen days after the declaration of disaster  
17 emergency and until sixty (60) days after the termination of the declaration of disaster  
18 emergency; now, therefore be it

19           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby

1 supports provisions requiring essential caregivers for residents of nursing homes and long-term  
2 care facilities during health disaster emergencies; and be it further  
3           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
4 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, Director of the  
5 Rhode Island Department of Health.

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