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**LEGISLATING THE IMPOSSIBLE**

**House of Representative’s Bill**

 **Will Force Closure of Nursing Homes**

Warwick, Rhode Island: The Rhode Island Health Care Association (RIHCA) announced today their opposition to the House of Representatives amended version of the nursing home staffing bill (H 5012 Substitute A2) that passed today. This bill is neither a staffing bill, nor a quality care bill, as it is inappropriately titled.

President and CEO of RIHCA Scott Fraser noted “This bill is simply bad public policy and will result in the closure of nursing homes in our state. The House of Representatives passed a bill that has provisions that are impossible to meet. It sets a staffing mandate that requires the hiring of over 8oo new employees when our homes already cannot meet existing job demand. The State of Rhode Island’s own website (Real Jobs RI) lists 1,877 openings in the same exact job classifications that are required by this bill. Between the pandemic and the depleted job market, they truly are legislating the impossible.

Further, over the past decade, nursing homes funding has been cut almost every year. This year alone have our homes are facing a $50 million shortfall in Medicaid funding. This bill now adds another $30 to $35 million unfunded mandate on top of that annually. It will simply drive RI nursing homes out of business.

The bill will also do the exact opposite of what it is intended to do. It will not improve care; it will ultimately lead to little or no care for those that need it most. At a critical juncture in our state’s history, with a doubling of our elderly population over the next 20 years, they passed a bill guaranteeing less access to much needed care.”