



***It is Unfortunate that the Union Chose to Strike During the Pandemic; This has a Harmful Effect on Nursing Homes Residents***

***Meaningful Worker Pay will be Resolved by Restoration of Medicaid Cuts by Governor Raimondo, not Unfunded Mandates***

**RIHCA Statement from President and CEO Scott Fraser**

“It is unfortunate that the union chose to strike during a pandemic that is having a serious impact on our nursing homes. This action – which includes full homes of workers walking off the job -- will have a detrimental impact on RI’s most frail elderly residents living in our nursing homes. Many of our residents have the same workers caring for them each day. Now the people they rely on will not show up to work. Five of our 64 members are union homes.

“We have been advocating for increases in Medicaid funding for years, which would be of great benefit to our workers, yet the current governor’s budget has cut Medicaid every year she has been in office. In fact, she presented a budget with \$7.5 million in cuts this year alone, including the loss of millions in federal matching funds. We will continue to advocate aggressively for the funding we need to provide quality care and meaningful pay to our valued workers.

“RI’s nursing homes have been rated second in the nation for quality and listed first in the nation in infection control. The union is advocating for 4.1 hours of care, which is an ask not replicated in any state in the nation. In fact, the only two states in NE with a mandatory hours mandate are VT at 3.0 and CT at 1.9. Nursing homes like those in RI and MA follow the CMS federal guidelines for staffing. Ri is presently at 3.62 hours of care and doing an excellent job providing high quality care to the state’s most frail elderly.

“The bottom line is the unfunded mandate the union is advocating for – which would cost \$44 million -- will decimate our nursing homes. This could leave workers with no jobs and our most frail elderly residents with no homes.”

**Scott Fraser will be available for interviews.**