

UPDATE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Stay informed. Take precautions. Stay safe.

Dear Members,

Mass-ALA submitted this letter to the Financial Services Committee in support of the liability protection bill with the request that Personal Care Attendants be included in the list of covered health care professionals.

April 10, 2020

The Joint Committee on Financial Services
The Honorable James T. Welch, Chair
The Honorable James M. Murphy, Chair
24 Beacon Street, Room 254
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Including Personal Care Attendants in S.2630 filed by Governor Baker

Dear Chairman Welch, Chairman Murphy, and members of the Joint Committee on Financial Services,

The Massachusetts Assisted Living Association (Mass-ALA) is the voice of assisted living in Massachusetts, providing information and education, and advocating on behalf of our members and the seniors they serve. Mass-ALA promotes a model of care that treats all residents with dignity, provides privacy and encourages independence and freedom of choice.

Mass-ALA supports S.2630, filed by Governor Baker, but **respectfully requests that Personal Care Attendants be added to the list of covered health care professionals**. We greatly appreciate the steps that the Massachusetts Legislature and Governor Baker have taken to address the COVID-19 pandemic and, in particular, to protect our older population and the front-line workers who care for them. Assisted living residences are making every effort to balance appropriate public health responses to COVID-19 with the regulatory framework, resident rights, and other applicable laws that do not contemplate today's environment. In this unprecedented time, S.2630

will provide important liability protection to care providers who are experiencing daily changes to regular care practices in response to COVID-19 while continuing to work hard meeting the daily needs and ensuring care of all residents.

In assisted living, Personal Care Attendants are a key part of the front-line workforce caring for our residents and are analogous to the role of certified nursing attendants in nursing homes. Assisted living residences employ Personal Care Attendants to assist residents with key activities of daily living including toileting, bathing and dressing. In the course of this work, they have utilized PPE when it has been necessary and when it has been available during the pandemic. As assisted living providers were intended to be protected by this legislation, we believe that adding Personal Care Attendants to the list of covered health care professionals is a technical change consistent with the intent of the bill. They are an indispensable part of the assisted living workforce and deserve the same protections as other front-line care providers during this pandemic.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important piece of legislation. If the Committee has any questions regarding our comments, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Brian Doherty
President & CEO
The Massachusetts Assisted Living Association

Please contact us if you have any questions at, MassALA@mass-ala.org

**The information provided in this COVID 19 update is solely for general informational purposes to assist in understanding the evolving guidance regarding the current COVID 19 public health threat. It is not intended to be a primary public health or medical resource, but is provided as a clearinghouse for or compilation of various guidance issued by official and related sources.*

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