

Massachusetts Health Policy Commission

2025 Annual Cost Trends Hearing

TESTIMONY OF RICHARD T. MOORE

Submitted by Former Senator Richard T. Moore. I am a Co-Founder of Dignity Alliance Massachusetts, however, the views presented in this testimony are not necessarily the views of Dignity Alliance. They are based on my experience as Senate Chair of the Committee on Health Care Financing and subsequent lived experience.

November 15, 2025

Director Seltz, General Counsel Johnson, and Members of the Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for this year's Annual Cost Trends Hearing. I want to express my deep concern about the trajectory of **MassHealth spending on nursing home care** and the troubling disconnect between rising public expenditures and declining quality of care for residents.

Rising Costs, Declining Care

- MassHealth expenditures for nursing home care continue to climb, consuming a growing share of the Commonwealth's health care budget.
- Yet, despite these increases, residents and families report worsening conditions: inadequate staffing, unmet care needs, and declining quality indicators.
- Direct care staff—nurses, aides, and therapists—remain underpaid and overburdened, leading to high turnover and instability in care delivery.

Ownership Trends and Profit Extraction

- Approximately **two-thirds of the 345 nursing homes in Massachusetts are owned by for-profit entities**, including **private equity firms and real estate investment trusts (REITs)**.
- Evidence suggests that **increases in MassHealth funding may be diverted to profits for owners and investors**, rather than reinvested in staffing and care.
- This ownership model prioritizes financial returns over resident well-being, undermining the Commonwealth's commitment to dignity and equity in long-term care.

Call for Accountability: Audit of Cost Reports

I urge the Commission to recommend a **comprehensive audit of nursing home cost reports** submitted to the **Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA)**.

- If reports are **not submitted**, omit necessary information, or contain **inaccurate or false data**, these cases should be referred to the **Attorney General** for investigation and enforcement.
- Transparency and accountability are essential to ensure that taxpayer dollars are used to support care—not to enrich investors at the expense of vulnerable residents.

Policy Imperatives

To realign spending with outcomes, we call for:

- **Rigorous oversight** of nursing home financial practices.
- **Enforcement mechanisms** to penalize misrepresentation or fraud in cost reporting.
- **Investment in direct care staffing**, ensuring wages and working conditions that attract and retain skilled caregivers.
- **Public reporting** of ownership structures and profit margins, so families and policymakers can understand where their dollars are going.

Closing

Massachusetts has long been a leader in health care reform. But leadership requires vigilance. Rising costs without rising quality is not sustainable—morally, fiscally, or socially. We must ensure that every dollar spent through MassHealth advances the dignity, safety, and well-being of nursing home residents.

Thank you.