



Massachusetts Assisted Living Association Announces Opposition to Nurse Staffing Ballot Question

BOSTON, MA – September 13, 2018—Citing concerns about access and affordability, the Massachusetts Assisted Living Association (Mass-ALA) today joined the Coalition to Protect Patient Safety in opposition to the proposed nurse staffing question appearing on this year’s statewide ballot. Mass-ALA represents 230 assisted living residences of all sizes, serving over 10,000 seniors across the Commonwealth.

Mass-ALA President and CEO Brian Doherty released the following statement:

“Assisted living has flourished over the past three decades as increasing numbers of older adults value the opportunity to live in a community-oriented environment built on a model of independence, dignity, and choice. We are concerned that this ballot measure, which could dramatically reduce the availability of nurses beyond hospitals, would create new barriers to care for residents and erode the gains we have made as a Commonwealth in supporting seniors.

We support nurses and value their contributions. We are also concerned about the ballot question’s long-term effects on assisted living affordability. As our industry continues to work hard to close the assisted living affordability gap, we recognize that the impact of staff being recruited away to fulfill mandates at hospitals would be significantly detrimental to this goal. If passed, this ballot question would make it more challenging to provide affordable assisted living to seniors who believe our residential model best fits their needs.

We urge citizens to vote ‘NO’ on Question 1.”

Contact

Kirsten Lance

Denterlein

617.482.0042