



Testimony in Support of H-7803

Linda Katz, Policy Director

House Finance Committee

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The Economic Progress Institute supports passage of H-7803 because it will further our state's long-standing goal of providing more opportunity for seniors and people with disabilities to live in their homes and communities.

In 2006, the General Assembly passed a law to reform how long term care services are provided to Medicaid recipients.

Acknowledging the growing number of Rhode Islanders who would need long term care services – and the need to expand access to care at home and in the community, the “findings” in the reform law emphasized that:

“It is in the interest of all Rhode Islanders to endorse and fund statewide efforts to build a fiscally sound, dynamic long-term care system that supports: consumer independence and choice; the delivery of high quality, coordinated services; the financial integrity of all participants-purchasers, payers, providers and consumers; and the responsible and efficient allocation of all available public and private resources.”

R.I.G.L 40-8.9-1

We support the implementation of an Independent Choice option in our Medicaid Long Term Care delivery system because it will move us forward on this now 12 year-old goal to “rebalance” care and especially to support “consumer independence and choice”.

The 2006 findings also acknowledged the need “to assure that rates paid for community-based long-term care services are adequate to assure high quality as well as supportive of workforce recruitment and retention”.

The Independent Choice option will help further this goal as well – promoting improved working conditions for the 10,000 plus direct care workers who provide such a vital service to their clients and to our state.