



Testimony on: S-2734. Senator Goodwin
April 25, 2018

The Economic Progress Institute supports passage of S-2734 because it will further our state's longstanding goal of providing more opportunity for seniors and people with disabilities to live in their homes and communities.

In 2006, this body 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 LTC – and emphasizing 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.”
40-8.9-1

EPI supports the implementation of an Independent Choice option in our Medicaid LTC 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.