

Fast Facts about Nursing Home Care Reimbursement in Rhode Island

May, 2011

- Governor Chafee's proposed FY 2012 budget seeks a cut in Medicaid funding for nursing home care of \$12.8 million.
- Though nearly \$13 million will be lost for nursing home care, the state saves less than half of that due to the federal matching formula for Medicaid funds.
- According to studies compiled by the American and Rhode Island Health Care Associations, Rhode Island's Medicaid system already under funds the cost of nursing home care for Medicaid recipients by \$12-\$15 per patient per day.
- RI facilities have been forced to absorb \$30 million in funding cuts in the past five years.
- Further funding cuts will threaten quality and accessibility of nursing home care.
- The state points to unsustainable growth in the Medicaid budget of 7.6% per year. Nursing home spending however, is growing far more slowly - just 2.1% per year.
- The Governor's budget falsely inflates nursing home expenditures by including the amount spent on home and community-based care as part of the total expense for nursing homes.
- The number of Rhode Islanders over the age of 85 as a percentage of our senior population ranks fifth highest in the country. For this reason we need to have safe and compassionate nursing home care available when it is needed. We must insure that the services our citizens need are available when they need them.