



## Statement on Proposed FY 2016 Budget

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While we understand the constraints and challenges that the Raimondo Administration was working under when crafting this budget, the proposed Medicaid rate cuts totaling \$18 million to nursing homes is very severe, plus a potential additional \$5 million in other funding reductions. When we are talking about jobs, it is also important to note that nursing homes provide hands-on care to the most frail in our state through nursing and other staff. Indeed, the majority of funds that nursing homes receive goes to direct care staffing. We are worried about the effects of these cuts on staffing in nursing homes, because we know that better staffing means better quality of care. A cut of this magnitude could adversely affect the quality of care that all nursing home residents receive, whether they are on Medicaid or not. That said, we understand the short and long term financial challenges to Medicaid, while also recognizing the needs of our growing older population, and look forward to working with the Governor and the General Assembly to address our Medicaid budget issues - short term and long term and find ways to better allocate our scarce resources to care for the elderly.