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**Senator Whitehouse Honored by LeadingAge RI for
Advocacy on Behalf of Seniors**

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, April 9, 2012: United States Senator Sheldon Whitehouse was recently honored at the LeadingAge RI Annual Conference and Trade Show, with the non-profit association's "Making a Difference Award."

"Senator Whitehouse is a staunch advocate for Medicare, Medicaid, and the Older Americans Act," said LeadingAge RI Director James P. Nyberg. "He is also a leader in the effort to expand the use of information technology in health care to lower costs and to improve the quality of care. In fact, Senator Whitehouse's advocacy efforts have greatly contributed to our state's status as a national leader in the development and implementation of medical information technology."

Senator Whitehouse was the sole honoree at the association's annual event. He has distinguished himself in the health and long-term care policy community since being elected to Congress in 2006. In that position, Senator Whitehouse serves on the HELP Committee (Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions) and the Special Committee on Aging, among other assignments. His extensive background in public service (both on the state and national level) has exposed him to the unique needs of seniors in Rhode Island and shaped his interest in helping to solve our national healthcare crisis.

More than 250 industry leaders attended the annual conference on March 23. Topics of discussion included industry and regulatory issues, construction trends, medical ethics and best practices.

LeadingAge RI (formerly known as RIAFSA) was founded in 1989 and represents the continuum of long-term care providers in Rhode Island, including not-for-profit nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and senior housing providers, as well as adult day health centers. The mission of the association is to advance excellence in the field by fostering innovation, collaboration, and ethical leadership; advocating for sound public policy; providing education, collaboration, and professional development; valuing older people and their right to make choices; and promoting a continuum of services.

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