

STATEMENT REGARDING LEGISLATURE'S PROPOSED BUDGET

In these tough economic times, it was clear that virtually all Rhode Islanders would be affected by state budget cuts. In reviewing the legislature's proposed budget, we're grateful that the elderly were not asked to bear more than their share of that burden. As advocates for the elderly, we spoke about the impact of the proposed cuts and our voices were heard. While nursing homes and other providers continue to face reimbursement challenges, this budget averts draconian cuts that would devastate the providers who care for our most vulnerable. Special thanks to Chairman Costantino for his leadership in this fiscal crisis, for his sensitivity towards the needs of the elderly, and for helping to ensure that we can retain our qualified staffs and continue to provide attentive, compassionate care to the seniors who use our non-profit adult day centers, assisted living residences and nursing homes. We look forward to working with the entire legislature to protect and provide for our vulnerable population while we weather this financial crisis together.

James P. Nyberg

Director

Rhode Island Association of Facilities and Services for the Aging (RIAFSA)