



# The Beacon

A Newsletter for Long-Term Care Residents

April 2026

## Residents Helping to Shed New Light on Nursing Home Finances



Nursing home resident James Cook (left), Eliz Speidel, Director of Community Engagement for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO), resident Gail Smith, resident Ray DiFrancesco, and Laurie Facciarossa Brewer, the Ombudsman, testifying on a nursing home financial transparency bill.

**N**ursing home residents took center stage during a March 16 hearing at the Senate Health, Human Services, and Senior Citizens Committee. They spoke of understaffing and neglect, dreadful food, shoddy supplies, buildings in disrepair, all weaving into an essential question: Where does the money go?

Bill S2980 seeks to get to the bottom of that by requiring detailed, audited financial data from nursing homes and any related companies involved in their operations. The bill was approved by a 6-1 vote. The next step is a vote by the full Senate.

Ray DiFrancesco, Gail Smith, and James Cook — members of NJ Nursing Home Residents United — testified in person. A statement by resident Tanette Clegg was read into the record by LTCO Director of Community Engagement Eliz Speidel.

The residents were part of a broad coalition of advocates for S2980, including eldercare attorneys and representatives of the Service Employees International Union, AARP New Jersey, the League of Women Voters, and Disability Rights NJ.

New Jersey's Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Laurie Facciarossa Brewer, said Bill S2980 will provide needed insight into *related parties* — companies engaged in the nursing home operations that are owned by the same people who own the nursing home. The arrangement enables related parties to overcharge the nursing home and reap hidden profits for the people who own both companies.

Residents United will continue leading efforts to support Bill S2980.

### PNA WATCH

Residents United is also leading efforts to support Bill **S1576/A2691**, which would increase the personal needs allowance (PNA) from \$50 to \$140 a month.

To connect with Residents United:  
1-609-690-4740  
[community@ltco.nj.gov](mailto:community@ltco.nj.gov)



# It's Your Right! Voting in 2026

Voting is a fundamental right, and that does not change if you are living in long-term care. You are likely eligible to vote at your permanent address, whether that is a home in the community or a nursing home.

All 12 U.S. Representative seats for New Jersey and one U.S. Senate seat — the one currently held by Sen. Cory Booker — will be up for grabs this year.

While Election Day may seem a long way off, it will be here before we know it, and some key deadlines are already approaching for the June 2 primary election.

If you are already registered to vote, you are ahead of the game. But if you need to register, you must do so before **May 12** to vote in the primary.

To learn more about how to register and vote in the primary, download our election guide on the LTCO website, [www.nj.gov/lcco](http://www.nj.gov/lcco).



## REBUS PUZZLE

A



B



ACTION  
ACTION  
ACTION  
ACTION

C



D



KILL  
ED  
KILL

Answers - A. Penmanship, B. Ready for Action, C. Freebie, D. Dressed to Kill

New Jersey Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Laurie Facciarossa Brewer, LTC Ombudsman

[www.NJ.GOV/LTCO](http://www.NJ.GOV/LTCO)

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## RESIDENT VOICES

What's the best gift you ever got?



My daughter.  
- Jo Anne T.



A \$100 gift card.  
- Daniel R.



Unexpected gifts from family and friends and from God, of course.  
- Sue H.



My grandson.  
- Joe S.