Legislature of the Virgin Islands

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The Honorable

Angel Bolques, Jr.

Senator-At-Large
36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

CHAIRMAN
Committee on Culture, Youth, Aging, Sports & Parks

VICE-CHAIRMAN
Committee on Economic Development & Agriculture

MEMBER
Committee of the Whole
Committee on Rules & Judiciary
Committee on Homeland Security, Justice & Public Safety
Committee on Disaster Recovery, Infrastructure & Planning
Sub-Committee on Energy & Infrastructure Development

January 23, 2026

Ms. Junia John-Straker
Chief Executive Officer
Lutheran Social Services of the Virgin Islands
516 Hospital Street
Frederiksted, U.S. Virgin Islands 00840

Re: Invitation to Testify – Aging with Dignity: Oversight of Nursing Homes and CMS Certification Readiness in the Virgin Islands

Dear Ms. John-Straker,

As Chair of the Committee on Culture, Youth, Aging, and Parks, I respectfully invite you to testify during Block I (10:00 AM – 1:00 PM) of the Committee hearing scheduled for Friday, March 20, 2026, at the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall on St. Thomas.

This oversight hearing, entitled *"Aging with Dignity: Oversight of Nursing Homes and CMS Certification Readiness in the Virgin Islands,"* will examine the operational conditions, quality of care, staffing adequacy, infrastructure, regulatory compliance, and financial sustainability of nursing homes and long-term care facilities throughout the Territory, including those operated under Lutheran Social Services of the Virgin Islands.

The Committee will also assess progress toward CMS certification and readiness to meet federal Conditions of Participation, including barriers to Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement and corrective actions necessary to secure sustainable federal funding.

Your testimony is essential as we work to strengthen accountability, elevate care standards, and safeguard the health, dignity, and well-being of the Virgin Islands' aging community. You may designate appropriate staff to accompany you or present on specific operational matters, if necessary.

Please submit written testimony at least 48 hours prior to the hearing. Should you require further information, please contact my office directly. I look forward to your participation in this important discussion.

Respectfully,

The Honorable Angel Bolques, Jr.
Chair, Committee on Culture, Youth, Aging, Sports and Parks
Senator At Large, 36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands