

## Shanna Wells, M.Ed.

June 28, 2021

[HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov)

RE: **Support H6464**

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I write in support of House Bill 6464, sponsored by Representative Teresa Tanzi.

- Tenants impacted by COVID who have had their rental arrearage paid through rent relief should not be penalized with a permanent mark on their record that will make it difficult for them to find housing in the future
- Publicly visible eviction filings do not include meaningful or accurate information about the case or tenant– they only indicate an action was filed
- Tenants whose cases are dismissed, or abide by their stipulation agreement should not suffer permanent harm to their reputation
- Landlords will still be able to screen tenants through other tools and resources, and they will still be able to see cases where the judgment was in favor of the plaintiff (usually landlord/property owner)

As a counselor/social worker in RI for the last 20 years, I have seen our affordable housing crisis worsen, and the negative impact it has on the families unduly burdened by high rental costs. The pandemic has only made a bad situation worse.

Please support H6464 and help our neighbors to stay housed.

Sincerely,

*Shanna Wells*

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