

To the House Committee on Corporations,

I am writing to express my support in favor of House Bill 7612. This bill would extend the forbearance of utility terminations for customers with serious illness certifications and would amend various provisions related to the termination of utility services for persons who are disabled, seriously ill, or in arrears.

Currently Rhode Island law only gives people three weeks of clemency if someone is ill or is in arrears. As if that is not bad enough, it is up to the utility company, not a physician, to determine how long the illness is expected to last. This leaves families exposed during their most vulnerable moments.

This bill would extend protections to three months and allow qualified physicians to determine the duration of the illness, like in the state of Connecticut. This change would give families enough time to prepare and ensure they are not left without utilities while battling serious health conditions.

Please pass HB 7612.

Thank you.

Alex Denisevich  
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