

Lou Mansolillo

From: RI Resident <rhodyresident97@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2026 4:58 PM
To: House Corporations Committee
Subject: Support Percent of Income Payment (PIPP) House Bill H7880

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To House Corporations Committee Members:

As a member of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Providence, I serve with a group of volunteers who work directly with neighbors in need. I am writing to urge your support for Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) (H-7882) because we are witnessing a dramatic and unsustainable rise in utility shutoff crises affecting families in Providence and across our state.

Within our limited geographic area alone (02904, 02908, 02909), the need for charitable assistance to prevent utility terminations has risen sharply over the past year. Since September 2025 we have seen over a 300% rise in just one year.

Last year, SVDP Rhode Island, with all of our Conference and Districts, helped 1,167 households with assistance totaling over \$326,000. Families are spending up to 41% of their income on utilities, leaving little left for rent, food, and other basic needs.

Systemic Impact Deeper Concern:

The most critical issue facing many RI cities is housing stability.

Yet in 2026, we have been forced to divert a significantly larger share of donations toward emergency utility payments instead of rent stabilization.

In other words, funds that should be keeping families housed are increasingly being used to prevent electricity shutoffs. This is not sustainable for families and puts a strain on our charitable funds trying to support them.

The passage of the Percent of Income Payment (PIPP) House bill H7880 would reduce utility shut-offs as well as serve to prevent homelessness.

For this reason, we respectfully urge you to support PIPP legislation.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth David