

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my support for House bill 7127 and question 2, which would allocate \$120,000,000

towards preserving and increasing affordable and accessible housing.

I also fully support allocating \$25,000,000 towards the production of homes for ownership. Increased housing production at all levels is essential to increase housing availability and make it sustainable for all Rhode Islanders.

One year ago, I was living in a tent. Today, I stand before you as an advocate, a survivor, and a

grateful Rhode Islander. Forty-four years ago, I received an HIV-positive diagnosis, and throughout those decades, I have faced illness, stigma, and uncertainty. While unhoused last

winter, I was treated for spinal lesions in our state's hospitals.

In the past year, I moved into a motel shelter and then into a cooperative apartment program—

stepping stones on my journey to safe, stable housing. Yet even these vital supports consume seventy percent of my fixed income as I wait for an opening in

senior housing. Like so many Rhode Islanders, I am caught between gratitude for a roof over

my head and the struggle to keep it.

My next goal is securing more permanent, financially sustainable housing not only for myself but for all Rhode Islanders.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Donald King

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