



Eileen Hayes
President/CEO
Amos House
460 Pine Street
Providence, RI 02907

April 29, 2026

Honorable Marvin Abney
Chair, House Committee on Finance
Rhode Island State House, 82 Smith St. Providence, RI 02903
RE: Support for H7803-State Funded Rental Subsidy Program

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the Committee:

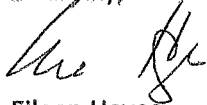
My name is Eileen Hayes, CEO of Amos House. I am the CEO of Amos House and I live in Providence, RI. I am writing to express my strong support for H7803, which would establish a state-funded rental subsidy in Rhode Island.

Amos House provides shelter for 57 families with 150 children and 80 adults over 55. We operated the Cranston Street Armory in 2022, and operate an Outreach Program and day center for hundreds of unhoused individuals. We have been providing shelter for decades and we have never seen the situation that we are dealing with today. Homelessness is a crisis of poverty and access. We have households unable to find affordable housing and the result is that they languish in shelters for far too long. What might have started as temporary homelessness, (maybe three to six months) has turned into a situation of chronicity. We have children in our shelter who have no memories of living in a home of their own.

A rental assistance subsidy would provide support to help very low-income and vulnerable households with disabilities to find and sustain housing. Rental assistance would also prevent new families and individuals from entering the homeless system by keeping them housed. What we have seen since the pandemic is an influx into shelter and a major blockade in moving people into housing. The solution to homelessness is housing. The solution to homelessness is the production of affordable units and to help stabilize households.

Thank you to the committee for taking the time to read my testimony. I realize there are so many competing interests for funding and limited resources. What experience has shown is that when we house people in safe, affordable units, the costs to systems such as healthcare, incarceration, and education goes down and quality of life and other determinants of health are improved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eileen Hayes', written in a cursive style.

Eileen Hayes

President/CEO