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April 29, 2026  
Honorable Marvin Abney  
Chair, House Committee on Finance  
Rhode Island State House, 82 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02903

**RE: Support for H7803 – State Funded Rental Subsidy Program**

My name is Nancy Krahe, and I am a retired social worker from the Providence School Department, and currently an advocate for the homeless through Mathewson Street Church. I also volunteered with the Council of Churches this winter as a driver to the 3 Emergency Pop up shelters that were opened on nights where the temperatures reached 22 degrees.

During my time at Mathewson, and as a volunteer driver to and from the emergency shelters I came to know many people who are homeless, living in a shelter, on the street or in encampments who each have a unique story to tell. I have also witnessed the positive transformations that have happened to people when they have been able to secure housing that is affordable for their income level. Many of the people I met were newly homeless. Many of them had lost a job or got behind on rent payments and therefore were evicted. Some folks when they lost a job, left their apartments prior to an eviction as they know that an eviction record can become another obstacle to finding an affordable apartment, even if you have a job.

I truly believe that Rhode Islanders are basically generous people and if they knew the impact a rental subsidy would make on reducing the number of homeless folks, they would be in favor of having this bill pass and become a reality.

In the past I have also volunteered at the Holy Family Home for Mother's and Children in Providence. While this home does an amazing job of providing a shelter for mothers and children that is clean and safe and offers an opportunity for families to get back on their feet and find stable, affordable housing, it is a time limited program of 15 months.

Any emergency shelter program does not provide the security and consistency that children need in having their own apartment.

**Please pass H7803 – State Funded Rental Subsidy** Passage of this bill will make a significant contribution in creating more affordable housing that we so desperately need here in Rhode Island. Thank you for considering this testimony.