

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee, My name is Wilma Smith I am currently a resident of Pawtucket and a formerly homeless Individual I am writing in support of Bill H7967 and bill H7304 I encourage you to pass the recommended changes to the homeless bill of rights H7967 introduced by Rep Stewart as you all know the housing crisis continues to grow by the day due to supply and demand issues although progress is being made to ease the housing shortage with funding for more affordable housing to be built it is not something that can be done overnight. Wait list for affordable housing is anywhere from 2-5years shelter beds are scares and more Rhode Islanders are becoming homeless because of increasing rents that's why I also encourage your support of Bill H7304 the Fair Notice bill by Rep Stewart both bills are important measures to help combat the rising housing crisis Rhode Island is know for making waves and we did so by becoming one of 3 states to have a homeless bill of rights that's why it's important for protections afforded by the homeless bill of rights remain in place and the recommended improvements move forward to preserve the dignity safety and humanity of homeless individuals who fall victim to the housing crisis .These recommendations provide more clarity on some of the loopholes associated with the bill of rights and more transparency which hopefully will increase not only the safety of homeless individuals but also lawmakers and law enforcement that may come in contact with homeless individuals I thank you for your time and attention given to my written testimony and I strongly urge you to support Bill H7967 and bill H7304