

March 27, 2024

Re: H 7049 and H 7304 Rent Stabilization Act
House Judiciary

Dear House Committee,

My name is Kathleen and I am testifying to support House Bill 7049 and 7304. I am not with an organization. I am a concerned constituent and renter. It is essential to pass the amended section of 34-18-61(7049) of the general laws entitled "Residential Landlord and Tenant Act". As we all know many RI'ers do not receive a 4% increase in wages yearly. An increase of no more than 4% annually is more than fair. The fact that landlords currently can raise rents to any amount they see fit, is or should be criminal. Too many renters are being evicted through no fault of their own. Bill 7304 would help as too many are having rents increased with no or little notice. Someone who is already struggling to keep afloat cannot magically come up with more money in 30 days. A 90 days' notice (120 for those over 62) can make all the difference in someone's life. Also, it is fair. When people are being kicked out of homes only because a landlord wants more income, and there are no affordable options to move to, we get homelessness. It is increasing at a frightening rate. Well, it is frightening for us renters, not the landlords. And currently our state government does nothing to help. We need these bills to pass. The state needs this bill to pass, unless we want to become the state with the highest homelessness rate. Do the right thing. Vote, YES, to pass the amendments.

Sincerely,
Kathleen