

Roberta DiMezza

From: Courtney D'Amico <courtneydamico1010@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 11:43 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Support For Bill #5503

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

[Court D'Amico]
[9 Alumni Ave]
Providence, RI [02906]

March 18, 2025

The Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill #5503, which seeks to ensure that landlords are prohibited from retaliating against tenants for reaching out regarding living conditions. As a resident of Providence and a constituent, I believe this bill is vital to protect tenants from retaliation, which can lead to unjust evictions, particularly in this current housing crisis.

I have experienced firsthand the unfortunate and harmful consequences of retaliatory eviction. After moving into a property managed by a realty team near Thayer Street, I raised concerns about various issues with my move-in experience and living conditions. Instead of addressing the concerns, I was told by the realty team that they "don't want people living in their buildings who aren't happy." This response not only dismissed my valid concerns, but it also put me in a vulnerable position as a tenant. It is precisely this type of retaliatory behavior that House Bill #5503 aims to prevent, and why I strongly urge the committee to support this legislation.

In Rhode Island, the rapid rise of homelessness, including a staggering 400% increase in recent years, underscores the urgency of addressing retaliatory evictions. Tenants should have the right to voice concerns about living conditions without the fear of losing their homes. The current climate makes it more critical than ever that we protect renters from such unjust actions that only exacerbate the housing crisis.

This bill is not just a matter of tenant rights—it's about fairness, accountability, and ensuring that all Rhode Islanders can live in safe and secure housing. No one should face retaliation or be forced to choose between their safety and their home.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I strongly urge you to support House Bill #5503 to safeguard tenants and ensure that landlords are held accountable for maintaining healthy living environments.

With gratitude and respect,

