



**RHODE ISLAND KIDS COUNT**  
ONE UNION STATION  
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903  
401/351-9400 • 401/351-1758 (FAX)

## **Testimony Re: House Bill 5503 Re: Residential Landlord and Tenant Act – Just Cause Evictions**

**House Judiciary Committee**

**March 18, 2025**

**Stephanie Geller, Deputy Director**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. Rhode Island KIDS COUNT would like to voice its support for House Bill 5503. We also want to thank Representative Cruz for sponsoring this important legislation and Representatives Potter, Morales, Giraldo, Stewart, Felix, Tanzi, Batista, Lombardi and Ajello for cosponsoring this bill. This bill would prevent arbitrary, no-fault evictions that contribute to homelessness and housing instability. The bill includes exemptions for owner-occupied homes with fewer than five units and housing that is already subject to rent regulation and just cause provisions under state and/or federal law.

Nationally, households with children are twice as likely as other households to be threatened with eviction, and Black renters are four times more likely to be evicted than white renters. Studies show that experiencing an eviction increases a child's likelihood of lead poisoning, food insecurity, emotional trauma, and academic decline.

Rhode Island families already face many challenges to finding safe, healthy, and affordable homes. Over the past few years, the Rhode Island General Assembly has passed a number of bills and allocated funding to address the state's housing crisis. We urge you to pass this legislation and remove another one of these barriers.

Thank you for your efforts to address the housing crisis in Rhode Island and for the opportunity to provide this testimony.