



March 18, 2025

The Honorable Committee chair,  
House Judiciary Committee  
Room House Lounge, Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: H 5674 -- Support

Honorable members,

At Progreso Latino, our mission is to help Rhode Island's Latino and immigrant communities achieve greater self-sufficiency and socio-economic progress by providing transformational programs that support personal growth and social change. Progreso Latino writes in strong support of H5674.

The prohibition on landlords inquiring about a tenant's immigration status is important for several legal, ethical, and social reasons, especially in communities such as ours in Central Falls. Asking about immigration status could create fear or intimidation among tenants, particularly those in vulnerable situations. This can lead to tenants feeling afraid to report issues like discrimination, unsafe living conditions, or harassment for fear of being reported to the authorities. In our community we have always received reports about rent increases and unsafe living conditions.

We assist tenants facing eviction notices at our monthly housing clinics and we also support families facing lead issues in their homes. Both evictions and lead present significant risks to individuals and communities. Evictions can lead to housing instability, financial hardship, and psychological distress, while exposure to lead can cause severe health problems for children. Families seeking housing or pursuing to remain housed should not be discriminated against based on their immigration status. Every tenant has the right to have safe housing. We must encourage fair housing for all as it reflects a commitment towards social justice.

Thank you, Representative Giraldo and co-sponsors for your leadership, and thank you to the honorable members of the House Judiciary Committee for consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Mario Bueno, consisting of a stylized 'M' and 'B'.

Mario Bueno  
Executive Director  
Progreso Latino, Inc.  
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Central Falls, RI 02863  
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