

March 18, 2025

Re: H5674 RELATING TO PROPERTY -- RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD AND TENANT ACT

Dear House Judiciary Members,

**I am writing to express my support for House Bill 5674 which would prohibit a landlord from inquiring about the immigration status of a tenant subject to any federal laws or regulations.**

I have been working as an Adult Educator, teaching English as a Second Language in RI for the last 15 years. I have taught people from all over the world, both immigrants and refugees, that came here to escape conditions in their homeland that ranged from extreme poverty to violence, and war. Without exception, they have made tremendous sacrifices to be here and for many of them life in this country has not been easy.

Most of my students are working low paying jobs and struggling to make ends meet, care for their families, and send money to relatives back home. Trying to find housing that is affordable is a growing challenge in this state, for everyone, but for my students the challenge is compounded by limited resources and a range of other issues.

My students have longed faced discrimination, but that has only grown more pronounced given the current political climate and the ways in which this administration has fanned the flames of xenophobia by targeting and scapegoating immigrants for this country's economic hardships. This is playing itself out in every sector of our society, including the rental market.

Bill 5674 would serve as a measure of protection for immigrant families by forbidding landlords or agents acting on behalf of landlords to inquire about the immigration or citizenship status of a tenant, prospective tenant, occupant, or prospective occupant of residential rental property.

I urge the members of this committee to pass this bill.

Sincerely,  
Miriam R. Budnick  
Providence Resident, District 11  
401-222-9320