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From: Cassandra Check <cassiecheck3@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 4:55 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Support House Bill 5299

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To whom it may concern,
I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 5299, which I believe is a crucial step forward for our community within the state of Rhode Island.

House Bill 5299 addresses working with stakeholders to investigate and determine ways to assist an incorporated homeowners' association (Gaspee Point Home Owners Association) to exercise rights to purchased leased land.

This legislation is vital for a few key reasons.

1. **Empowerment of Homeowners' Associations:** By enabling incorporated homeowners' associations to exercise their rights to purchase leased land, House Bill 5299 empowers communities to take control of their housing situations. This fosters a sense of ownership and stability for residents, which is essential for building thriving neighborhoods.
2. **Affordable Housing Solutions:** The bill directly addresses the pressing need for affordable housing by providing a pathway for homeowners' associations to secure land. This can lead to the development of more affordable housing units, particularly benefiting vulnerable populations such as the elderly and low-income families who often face housing insecurity.
3. **Support for Vulnerable Demographics:** The elderly and lower-income individuals frequently struggle with rising housing costs. By facilitating the purchase of leased land, House Bill 5299 can help ensure that these demographics have access to stable, affordable housing options that meet their needs, thereby improving their quality of life.
4. **Community Stability and Retention:** When homeowners' associations can secure their land, it promotes community stability. Residents are less likely to face displacement as they gain control over their housing situations. This is particularly important for elderly residents who may have lived in their homes for many years and wish to remain in their communities. As well as young growing families who are aiming to put down roots in the community of Gaspee Point.
5. **Collaboration with Stakeholders:** The bill's directive for RIHousing to work with various stakeholders ensures that a comprehensive approach is taken to address housing challenges. Engaging with local governments, non-profit organizations, and community leaders will lead to innovative solutions tailored to the unique needs of different communities.
6. **Long-term Economic Benefits:** Investing in affordable housing through the purchase of leased land can have long-term economic benefits for the state. Stable housing contributes to healthier communities, reduces reliance on social services, and supports local economies by allowing residents to invest in their homes and communities.
7. **Promoting Equity in Housing:** House Bill 5299 is a step towards promoting equity in housing access. By

focusing on the needs of lower-income and elderly residents, the bill aims to dismantle barriers that have historically marginalized these groups in the housing market.

These points emphasize the critical role that House Bill 5299 plays in enhancing housing stability, affordability, and community empowerment for Rhode Island residents, particularly those in vulnerable demographics.

I urge you to lend your support to House Bill 5299 and advocate for its passage. Together, we can make a positive impact on our community and ensure that Rhode Island remains a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to seeing our state take a progressive step forward with this legislation.

Best regards,

Cassandra check