



Apr 22, 2025

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

RE: HB 6160 -- Support

This act would grant tenants that are the victim of various forms of abuse including, but not limited to, sexual and domestic abuse and stalking, the right to terminate a lease agreement early without penalty or liability for rent. This act would also provide for requests to change locks.

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 has served over 350 survivors of domestic violence in the past year alone. Our comprehensive services reach a diverse population, including 85% women and 15% men, most of whom come from low-income families. Our programs provide trauma-informed support in a culturally competent and safe environment. We offer confidential support groups, high-demand clinical services, and long-term assistance to help survivors rebuild their lives.

Our case worker has dealt with cases in which a survivor of domestic violence refrains from leaving an abusive partner due to fear of breaking a lease and owing money they don't have. Abusers often use this as a financial control technique forcing victims to stay. This fear is magnified when the children's wellbeing is concerned. The provision allowing survivors to change door locks is a very important measure that can improve the safety of victims and their families.

Thank you for your consideration of this impactful legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mario Bueno", is written over a horizontal line.

Mario Bueno
Progreso Latino, Inc.
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Central Falls, RI 02863
401-728-5920 Ext. 119