



Planned Parenthood of Southern New England

**Testimony in Support of 26-H 8109,  
AN ACT RELATING TO PROPERTY - RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD AND TENANT ACT -  
JUST CAUSE EVICTIONS**

**House Committee on Judiciary**

**Hannah Stern - Director, Public Policy and Government Relations**

**Planned Parenthood of Southern New England**

**March 18, 2026**

Dear Chair McEntee and honorable members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

In my capacity as the Director, Public Policy and Government Relations at Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (PPSNE), I appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony **in support of House Bill 8109**. PPSNE provided sexual and reproductive health care to nearly 10,000 Rhode Island patients last year and believes all people should have access to quality, affordable, and compassionate health care as a basic human right — regardless of who you are, where you live, your income, if you have health insurance or your immigration status.

Reproductive freedom includes economic security for all, which in turn ensures greater access to health care, critical resources, and, importantly, housing. This legislation will ensure that no tenant may be evicted but for just cause, solidifying important elements of housing stability in state law and protecting renters from being forced out of their homes on short notice without any justification, even if the tenant has abided by all terms of the lease. Especially because no-fault evictions are often motivated by illegal discrimination based on race, family status, national origin, disability, or other protected categories; requests for repairs or necessary upgrades to the safety or hygiene of the housing; or organizing work done by the tenant with other neighbors, this legislation would provide critical due process protections and protections from discriminatory actions.

Stable, predictable housing is a fundamental part of reproductive freedom. Secure housing provides that patients have higher access to consistent healthcare; that housing turmoil and stress does not impact a person's livelihood; and that no one must fear abrupt or

sudden housing insecurity based on measures beyond their control and based on the arbitrary discretion of their landlord.

Planned Parenthood will continue to fight for policies that protect the rights of all people to ensure that our patients and our communities have what they need to live healthy and self-determined lives. H 8109 is a critical step in ensuring that all Rhode Islanders have the housing security to access the health care that they deserve.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Stern', written in a cursive style.

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