

March 17, 2026

The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee
Chairwoman
Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H8109 Just Cause Eviction Protections—Support

Chairwoman McEntee and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families (RICCF), I write in support of **H8109**, which would establish just cause protections for tenants by prohibiting a landlord from removing a tenant from a housing accommodation without a valid reason.

RICCF represents 44 community-based organizations advocating for and serving children, youth, and families across Rhode Island. Our members provide behavioral health care, family support services, child welfare programs, and residential treatment. Every day, we see how housing instability directly affects the safety, health, and well-being of the children and families we serve.

When families face sudden eviction or displacement, the impacts can be immediate and severe. Housing instability disrupts children's education, increases stress and trauma for families, and can make it far more difficult for parents to maintain employment or access behavioral health services. For families already navigating challenges, the loss of stable housing can quickly lead to deeper involvement with crisis systems such as shelters, emergency services, or the child welfare system.

Establishing clear just cause eviction standards helps promote housing stability and predictability for tenants while still allowing landlords to address legitimate concerns such as nonpayment of rent or lease violations. These protections can help prevent unnecessary displacement and reduce the risk of homelessness for Rhode Island families.

Stable housing is a critical foundation for healthy child development and strong families. Policies that prevent sudden and unjust evictions help ensure that children can remain safely housed and connected to their schools, communities, and support systems.

For these reasons, the Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families respectfully urges the Committee to support **H8109**.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to Rhode Island's children and families.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tanja Kubas-Meyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tanja Kubas-Meyer
Executive Director