



**State of Rhode Island**  
**Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos**

March 17, 2026

Representative Carol Hagan McEntee  
Chair, House Judiciary Committee  
82 Smith St, House Lounge  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Letter of Support for H8109: An Act Relating To Property -- Residential Landlord And Tenant Act -- Just Cause Evictions

Dear Representative McEntee:

I write to you in support of H8109: An Act Relating To Property -- Residential Landlord And Tenant Act -- Just Cause Evictions. This bill requires that any landlord seeking to evict a tenant must have a good cause to do so (e.g. nonpayment of rent, destruction of property, illegal use of property).

Currently, landlords are permitted to initiate eviction proceedings without cause. This opens the door to using the eviction process to stave off tenant's unions, retaliate against tenants advocating for improved habitability, or even to repurpose the unit for their own needs. Our office has worked directly with constituents who face evictions for these very reasons. Doing so disrupts the housing stability of renters, many of whom have few options in Rhode Island for housing that meets their needs.

Eviction is a very serious, lengthy, and destabilizing practice. Engaging in eviction proceedings should require sufficient reasoning and evidence to support undertaking such action. For these reasons, and many more, I urge you to vote this bill favorably out of committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabina Matos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sabina Matos

Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor

CC: Rep. Cherie Cruz