

H O U S I N G



N E T W O R K

May 5, 2026

The Honorable Carol McEntee
Chair, House Committee on Judiciary
Rhode Island State House,
82 Smith Street, Providence RI 02903

Re: Support for House Bills 8004-A

Dear Chair McEntee and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Housing Network of Rhode Island (HNRI) and our statewide alliance of partners, we write in support of **H8004A**

We are grateful to Speaker Shekarchi and bill sponsors for their continued leadership in addressing Rhode Island's housing crisis, and especially for their responsiveness to stakeholder feedback. The Sub A version reflects important improvements, including clearer definitions, more precise applicability, and thoughtful technical refinements that will support effective implementation.

Rhode Island continues to face a severe shortage of affordable homes, with the price of homes for sale and for rent out of reach for many Rhode Islanders. Addressing this challenge requires coordinated, system-level solutions that enable communities to build, preserve, and adapt housing more efficiently. **H8004A** advances this work by improving consistency, clarity and coordination for developers and municipal partners.

We thank you for your leadership and partnership, and we urge your support for this important piece of legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melina Lodge".

Melina Lodge, MCP
Executive Director