

Ariana Costa

From: bounce@bounce.voterveice.net on behalf of Deborah Capoverde
<user@voterveice.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 6:25 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Support H7199 with amendments

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Committee Clerk DiMezza,

OPPOSE

I would like to commend the sponsors for their introduction of H7199. I support domestic violence victims as well and recognize domestic violence and a serious societal issue. However, the bill in its current form contains many provisions that are in serious conflict with contract law and landlord-tenant law. While it is true that other states have protections for domestic violence victims seeking to break their lease, even our neighboring state of Massachusetts which has some of the most progressive protections for victims, does not allow self certification or other provisions of this bill like lockouts of co-tenants based on self certification.

Other states have not permitted self certifications due to this provision breaching contract law and necessary due process procedures. Instead, places like Massachusetts have allowed for 3rd party verification from healthcare workers and organizations similar to the Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sojourner House to provide 3rd party verification. This also ensures that survivors are connected with the necessary support and resources needed.

I support an amended version of this bill that preserves contract law, landlord-tenant law, and due process rights for all parties involved.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Deborah Capoverde
65 Orchard Ave
Barrington, RI 02806
debcapoverde@gmail.com