

May 19, 2026

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

Re: H7199 Survivor Early Lease Termination Act—Support

Dear Chairwoman McEntee and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families (RICCF), I write in strong support of **H7199**, the Rhode Island Survivor Early Lease Termination Act.

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, residential treatment, and child welfare programs. We work closely with families experiencing crisis, including those impacted by domestic violence, sexual abuse, and stalking.

For survivors of abuse, housing stability is often directly tied to safety. Too often, individuals and families remain in unsafe living situations because they cannot afford the financial penalties associated with breaking a lease. This creates a dangerous barrier to leaving abusive environments and puts both adults and children at continued risk.

H7199 addresses this issue by allowing survivors to terminate a lease early without penalty or ongoing liability. This policy provides a clear, practical pathway for survivors to secure safe housing without the added burden of financial hardship.

For children, the ability to leave an unsafe home quickly can be life-changing. Stable and safe housing is essential to their physical safety, emotional well-being, and long-term development. Policies that support survivors in accessing safe housing also help reduce trauma and prevent deeper involvement with emergency and child welfare systems.

By removing barriers to safe housing, this legislation strengthens protections for some of Rhode Island's most vulnerable families and supports a more responsive and compassionate housing system.

For these reasons, the Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families respectfully urges the Committee to support H7199.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to the safety and well-being of Rhode Island 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