



State of Rhode Island  
**Department of State | Office of the Secretary of State**  
**Gregg M. Amore, Secretary of State**

May 19, 2026

The Honorable Carol H. McEntee, Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: In support of House Bill 7199 (Alzate), An Act Relating to Property – Residential Landlord and Tenant Act – Rhode Island Survivor Early Lease Termination Act

Dear Chair McEntee,

I write this letter in support of House Bill 7199, legislation that aims to help improve the lives of victims of abuse and provide them with another tool for their safety and for their families.

The Department of State administers the Address Confidentiality Program (ACP), which enables victims of domestic violence, abuse, stalking, sexual assault, or trafficking to protect the confidentiality of their addresses. The ACP currently serves 130 families, including 51 children. Individuals affected by crime may find it difficult or frightening to continue their daily routines and tasks, especially in matters related to public civic life. Overall, we believe House Bill 7199 targets the same population that the ACP serves.

We support House Bill 7199, legislation that will allow victims of domestic violence, abuse, stalking, sexual assault, and other forms of abuse to terminate their lease or rental agreements without any penalty for early termination or any liability for future rent. Specifically, this legislation requires the Department of State to maintain a self-certification form on our website, so survivors have the necessary documentation to take advantage of the protections as prescribed by the bill. Our office, under the ACP, has the capacity to accomplish the parameters proposed in this legislation so that survivors of abuse can take action to keep themselves and their families safe.

Therefore, we urge the Committee to move House Bill 7199, which is another comprehensive tool that victims of abuse and their families can use for their own safety when confronting tenuous, unexpected situations. The support this legislation will provide – in tandem with the ACP – will ensure that victims are safe and that being impacted by crime does not prevent them from participating in civic life or continuing their daily routines.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michelle Arias, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, at [marias@sos.ri.gov](mailto:marias@sos.ri.gov).

Sincerely,

Gregg M. Amore  
Secretary of State

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Judiciary  
The Honorable Karen Alzate