



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

May 19, 2026

The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee  
Chair, House Judiciary Committee  
82 Smith St  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Letter of Support for H7199: An Act Relating To Property -- Residential Landlord And Tenant Act -- Rhode Island Survivor Early Lease Termination Act

Dear Chair McEntee:

I write to you in support of H7199: An Act Relating To Property -- Residential Landlord And Tenant Act -- Rhode Island Survivor Early Lease Termination Act.

This bill grants tenants that are the victim of various forms of abuse including, but not limited to, sexual and domestic abuse and stalking, the right to terminate a lease agreement early without penalty or liability for rent.

The data regarding domestic violence in Rhode Island speaks to the urgency of a bill like this. According to the RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 46.7% of women and 40.7% of men will experience some form of sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetimes. The number one priority for survivors of abuse is to isolate them from their abuser, and as a state we must do everything in our power to ensure that that isolation does not itself come with hurdles and barriers that prevent people from getting to safety. This bill does just that by allowing survivors of abuse to terminate a lease early without fear of penalty.

For these reasons, 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: Representative Karen Alzate