



**RHODE ISLAND WORKING FAMILIES PARTY**

Rep. Stephen Casey, Chair  
House Housing and Municipal Government Committee

January 25, 2024

**Support for H-7062 – An Act Relating to Towns and Cities – Zoning Ordinances**

Chair Casey and Members of the Committee,

The Rhode Island Working Families Party writes in strong support of H-7062 from Rep. June Speakman to streamline the process for creating accessory dwelling units (ADUs). RIWFP advocates for policies that strengthen economic security and reduce burdens for working class Rhode Islanders. This bill, which would help address Rhode Island’s housing crisis by allowing for the creation of more homes that are affordable for its residents, would help achieve that goal.

Rep. Speakman’s bill would create uniform regulations for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) across the state. Accessory Dwelling Units are smaller independent residential dwellings on a parcel of land that has a current housing unit—sometimes known as “in-law apartments” or “granny flats”. They are important housing options that allow homeowners to create housing for aging parents or others and are often easier and more affordable to build than other housing options . They are an essential part of addressing Rhode Island’s housing crisis, and creating uniform statewide standards for ADUs will make it easier to create them.

This bill before the Housing and Municipal Government Committee would lead to the creation of new housing across the state of Rhode Island to help ensure Rhode Islanders across the state who are struggling with housing are able to find a place to call home. We hope the committee will move forward with this important piece of legislation.

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