



Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Maria E. Cimini
Director

January 25, 2024

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey
Chair, House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing
State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903
via email: Rep-Casey@rilegislature.gov
via email: HouseMunicipalGovernmentandHousing@rilegislature.gov

Re: H-7062 – Relating to Towns and Cities – Zoning Ordinances

Dear Chairman Casey:

I write today in support of H-7062 – Relating to Towns and Cities – Zoning Ordinances, which would amend several sections of law relating to zoning ordinances to provide uniform zoning standards for accessory dwelling units (ADUs). As the population living in Rhode Island ages, it is essential that we ensure people can remain living in their communities and neighborhoods. When an older adult must move to more affordable housing, that move often takes them away from the people and places that enrich their lives. ADUs are part of a broad spectrum of solutions that will allow older adults and adults living with disabilities to age-in-place, remaining with the people and places that they love. Additionally, ADUs offer benefits that address common development barriers such as affordability and environmental quality.

The Office of Healthy Aging (OHA) is the designated state unit on aging and we are charged with advocating for laws, policies and investments that protect the rights and agency of older adults and adults living with disabilities. As such, OHA offers that ADUs are a powerful type of housing unit as they provide important housing choices within existing neighborhoods while serving different population ranging from students and young professionals to young families, people living with disabilities and older adults.

As always, I thank you for your partnership and consideration of this letter and I urge the committee to support this bill. Your leadership and advocacy for Rhode Island's older adults and their families are appreciated.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria E. Cimini".

Maria E. Cimini
Director

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing
The Honorable June Speakman
Nicole McCarty, Esquire – Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker
Lynn Urbani, Policy Director