

## **HB 7062- Testimony for the ADU and Universal Design Bill**

Chairman Casey and members of the House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing:

My name is Marianne Kelly and I am writing to you today in support of bill number 7062, sponsored by Representative Speakman.”

I would like to express my support for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and Universal Design- an important type of housing being underutilized while there is an ever-increasing housing shortage in our state.

I retired in 2021 and live in an ADU in my daughter and son-in-law’s home and being on a fixed income I am able to cut monthly bills by at least 1/3, while giving them extra income. After having major surgery, I was able to go home and receive the best and most attentive care from my daughter, who was a door away and able to assist in my care plan. Outside care came to me but early on in my recovery it was my daughter who made decisions that were in my best interest. The most important aspect of living here, to me, has been that I am not alone. I believe I speak for many senior citizens in saying that being able to live in an ADU is an ideal situation for so many reasons including being near others which alleviates much of the isolation that so many seniors face and ultimately leads to feeling safe and secure in ones’ home.

All too often prohibitive zoning laws make it difficult, if not impossible, to have an ADU on ones’ property. While I understand some of the concerns, I believe that there can be proper regulations put in place to address the needs of our aging population. It should be up to the individual to choose to live close to family and friends and not up to municipalities. The goal should be to address what is in the best interest of all people, especially senior citizens and disabled individuals, who should be able to afford to ‘age in place’ with dignity in safe and affordable homes, while also providing the homeowner with potential extra income.

I am asking you today to seriously consider passing HB7062, an ADU bill that we can all agree on, for the good of all of the residents of Rhode Island, but especially our senior citizens and disabled people. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marianne Kelly  
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