



January 24th, 2024

The Honorable Representative Stephen Casey  
Chair of the House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing  
Rhode Island General Assembly  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Support for H7062

Dear Chairman Casey and Members of the House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing,

Reclaim Rhode Island supports H7062, which would create statewide regulations allowing the development of Accessory Dwelling Units, or ADUs. We all know that there is a housing crisis in Rhode Island, and there is a need for housing at all income levels. While Reclaim RI primarily focuses on tenant rights and building support for social housing/building new public housing in Rhode Island, we also see the need for other creative ways to add to the housing stock in RI.

H7062 will allow homeowners to build housing units within their existing structures, or in new structures on lots larger than 20,000 square feet, as long as they comply with existing building code. Creating rentable units on their property can provide homeowners with extra income to help pay their mortgage, and also provide opportunities to house family members in need. Families that are able to house elderly members in an ADU could help reduce the stress on the overstretched nursing home industry, and this new construction can be a boon to local contractors.

Importantly, this bill contains language which prevents any ADUs from being rented short term, as vacation rentals or AirBNBs (***ADUs shall not be offered or rented for tourist or transient use or through a hosting platform, as such terms are defined in § 42-63.1-2.***) which will ensure that this new housing will help provide more housing for Rhode Islanders, not contribute to the housing crisis.

Sincerely,

Reclaim RI