

>The time is NOW for Rhode Island to take urgent action toward providing affordable housing and rent stabilization for its residents statewide.

>Rent control is an indispensable tool in tackling housing inequality and promoting social equity. It guarantees that housing stays within reach and affordable for all residents, irrespective of their income.

● VICTIMS ● My parents, who are on a fixed income, were left without a working kitchen (just a refrigerator) for 7 months. We called the building inspector. The landlord did not pull a permit to tear their kitchen out from water damage, and he was fined for this issue and for other codes not up to date in the 20-unit complex. After that, he **changed their annual lease to a month-to-month lease**. Then, he **raised the rent by 30%** in 2023. In 2024, he **raised their rent by 15%**. That's **45% in 2 years!** This increase **exceeds half of their income** being on Social Security. (**see pic 1**)

They were left like this for 3 months. He rigged a kitchen for another 2-3 months to look like this. Before putting it back to its original condition, which took 7 months. (**see pic 2**)

>With more than 106,000 people living in apartments (they call home) in RI, we cannot afford to ignore the homelessness crisis any longer. To meet the growing demand for housing, we need to embrace new development approaches, offer more incentives, and reduce restrictions.

>Building new apartment homes yearly is essential. We cannot afford to fall short on this critical issue. Rent stabilization is the need of the hour, and it's time we prioritize the health, safety, and welfare needs of every resident in Rhode Island.

Pic1



Pic 2



