



February 27, 2025

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey
Chair, House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street, Providence RI 02903

Re: Support for House Bill 5100 – Substitute A

Dear Chair Casey and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Housing Network of Rhode Island, our members, and the low income Rhode Islanders we serve, I write to offer our support of **H-5100- Substitute A**. We applaud Speaker Shekarchi's sustained leadership to address fundamental gaps in our housing systems and to improve the quality of life for Rhode Islanders across the state, as well as the bill's cosponsors, Leader Blazejewski, Whip Kazarian, Deputy Whip Ackerman, Chair Alzate, Chair Serpa, Representatives Morales, Kennedy, Giraldo and Voas.

The State and municipalities have an essential role to play in facilitating the deployment of life-saving interventions to their constituents during an emergency. This legislation attempts to make this duty of care clear when it comes to the temporary shelter needs of unhoused Rhode Islanders, and we commend the Speaker and the bill cosponsors for their responsiveness to this issue. We have previously submitted testimony (February 4, 2025) highlighting components of the legislation that may benefit from further clarification and exploration, including the timing of emergency declarations and renewals, and the occupancy period of the units. While these do not appear to be addressed in H-5100 Sub A, we appreciate the opportunity to share our support for this critical legislation.

I welcome any questions you might have and can be reached at 401-721-5680 ext. 104 or mlodge@housingnetworkri.org.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melina Lodge". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Melina Lodge
Executive Director