



**Re: Support for H5512**

*Cara Zimmerman, MD, MBA  
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*Andre C. Willis*

*Celia Harms*

*Joe Roch*

*Emmett Hardiman, Esq.*

Dear Chairman Casey and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the non-profit organization Project Weber/RENEW in support of H5512 which would grant us property tax exemption at our Providence location.

Project Weber/RENEW has over 16 years of experience providing peer-based overdose prevention and recovery services. We conduct daily street outreach and host a stationary outreach van in Kennedy Plaza. We also operate two drop-in centers (one in South Providence and one in Pawtucket) where people can receive basic needs supplies (food, clothing, water), case management and housing navigation, overdose prevention tools such as Narcan, peer recovery support services, as well as HIV and hepatitis C testing services. Our drop-in centers also act as warming and cooling centers.

In 2024 we served 6,000 individuals across 22,000 encounters: 80% of the people we serve are experiencing homelessness and 99.9% are very low income. Nearly 80% of our encounters include the provision of basic needs.

We recently purchased a building at 45 Willard Ave in Providence which houses an array of comprehensive services including a drop-in center with showers and laundry, a harm reduction center (enacted by the legislature in 2001) where our staff can directly prevent overdose deaths, as well as free medical, behavioral health, and substance use treatment services on-site.

This bill would enable us to have property tax exemption for our building at 45 Willard Ave. This will help support our life-saving work by allowing us to invest more of our funding directly into our services, allowing us to better serve some of the state's most vulnerable residents. This is especially important now given the status of federal funding currently to ensure that we have financial sustainability.

Thank you so much for your time, consideration, and everything you do for the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colleen", written in a cursive style.

Colleen Daley Ndoye  
*Executive Director, Project Weber/RENEW*

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