



**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**  
**Rhode Island Department of Housing**  
**80 Washington Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
**Providence, RI 02903**

March 11, 2025

The Honorable Stephen M. Casey, Chair  
House Municipal Government and Housing Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Dear Chairman Casey:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Department of Housing, I write in strong support of the bills heard tonight that are within Speaker Shekarchi's Housing Package, which are H 5796, H 5797, H 5798, H 5799, and H 5800. These bills build upon the General Assembly's efforts to address the housing challenges within Rhode Island and closely align with the State's housing strategic plan, Housing 2030.

Increasing housing production is essential to improving affordability. This includes increasing all types of housing production. H 5796 would encourage higher density development in areas that already have public water and sewer available. Higher density in areas with existing infrastructure would promote efficient land use and would reduce development costs. Additionally, H 5797 builds upon efficiency by enabling municipalities to allow for co-housing arrangements. Co-housing arrangements promotes cost savings and sustainability.

The General Assembly continues to build upon efforts to allow for greater flexibility in our zoning. H 5798 would expand home ownership opportunities at a lower cost by allowing units, such as townhomes, in areas zoned for the same density. H 5799 and H 5800 would increase residential development opportunities.

I would like to thank this Committee and the bill sponsors for the continued leadership and partnership on housing issues. I look forward to collaborating on these policies and implementation of the Housing 2030 plan. Thank you for your time and your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Deborah J. Goddard  
Secretary of Housing

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Municipal Government and Housing Committee  
The Honorable Representative Jason Knight  
The Honorable Representative Carol Hagan McEntee  
The Honorable Representative June Speakman  
The Honorable Representative Cherie L. Cruz  
The Honorable Representative Robert E. Craven, Sr.  
Nicole McCarty, Esquire, Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House  
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy