

Chairman Casey and Honorable Committee members,

My name is Daria Phoebe Brashear; I live in the Edgewood section of Cranston. Today I write to you in support of House Bills 5798 and 5799.

As a person who found myself in the position of buying a home in recent years, I am too many aware of the critical lack of housing in the state and the issues with affordability that come along with it. While I was able to negotiate the issue, many of my friends have had to leave after being priced out.

These bills before you today offer two means to increase affordability; HB5798 allows the creation of smaller homes which can be useful to households that wish to downsize but stay in their community, while also freeing up their larger previous home for new residents; townhomes are also easier to get financing to build.

HB5799's allowance for owners to make their own determinations as to how they might best use their own land similarly offers the potential to create more housing in neighborhoods people already live in and potentially want to continue to stay in as they age, without needing to stay in a larger-than-needed space.

Please support bills HB5798 and HB5799 today so we may have more options for affordable housing tomorrow.

Sincerely,
Daria Phoebe Brashear